



BECOME AN INFORMED ACTIVIST

19–20 October 2019
Melbourne Town Hall



activistsforum.com
info@activistsforum.com

SATURDAY TIMETABLE

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3
8:30am	Registration		
9:00am	Introduction & welcome		
9:30am	All groups reviews		
10:00am			
11:00am	Break		
11:30am			
12:30pm			
1:30pm	Break		
2:15pm			
3:00pm			
3:45pm	Break		
4:15pm			
5:30pm	Event finish – please vacate building by 6:00pm		

SUNDAY TIMETABLE

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3
8:30am	Registration		
9:00am	Introduction & welcome		
9:30am	All groups reviews		
10:00am			
11:00am	Break		
11:30am			
12:30pm			
1:30pm	Break		
2:15pm			
3:00pm			
3:45pm	Break		
4:15pm			
5:00pm	Wrap-up meeting		
5:30pm	Event finish – please vacate building by 6:00pm		

PRESENTER



SANDRA HIGGINS

GO VEGAN WORLD & EDEN FARMED ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Centering the Animals in their own Animal Rights Movement

Summary: Other animals are frequently represented in the animal rights movement as being powerless, silent, and even invisible. GoVegan World has always endeavoured to accurately represent other animals and the issues they face at our human hands, and it respects their right to be at the forefront of any advocacy efforts engaged in on their behalf. Sandra Higgins will explain how Go Vegan World is inspired and informed by animals who have escaped human use and are resident at Eden Farmed Animal Sanctuary in Ireland. She will discuss the skills and tactics used in the work of GoVegan World that centres the animals in their own animal rights movement, whilst respecting the intersectional human and environmental issues resulting from speciesism.

Biography: Sandra Higgins, BSc (Hons) Psych, MSc Couns Psych, MBPsS, founded Eden Farmed Animal Sanctuary in 2008. It was the first vegan sanctuary in Ireland. Eden is now home to more than 100 residents, all of whom have been rescued from human use.

In 2015 she founded GoVegan Ireland, a public educational advertising campaign which quickly developed into the international campaigning and educational organisation, GoVegan World.

PRESENTER



BRUCE POON & (PARLIAMENTARY ADVISER) GEORGIE PURCELL (CHIEF OF STAFF)

OFFICE OF ANDY MEDDICK MP

I voted for you, now win my campaign: How activists can effectively leverage an Animal Justice Party MP in parliament

👤 📧 📷 AndyMeddickMP

Summary: Member of Parliament have powers, but maybe not the super powers that you think! This presentation will cover off what they can actually do within the parliament, and how you might be able to leverage these capabilities. As a political party, we have a particular way we campaign to make changes, which we will talk through, and more importantly, what this means YOU must do in order to best work together with a sympathetic MP in order to force through legislative or regulatory changes to help animals.

Biography (Georgie): Georgie's background is in unionism, animal protection, communications and politics. She has worked in communications and campaign roles at United Voice and Industry Super Australia and is currently working as Chief of Staff to the first Animal Justice Party MP elected into the Victorian Parliament, Andy Meddick.



Since 2014, Georgie has also been the Vice President and Communications Director of Oscar's Law, Australia's foremost anti puppy farming campaign. In 2017, Oscar's Law successfully lobbied for laws that banned the sale of puppies in pet shops in Victoria and introduced the toughest laws on puppy farms in the country. Oscar's Law continues to lobby for national consistency in the legislation, with Western Australia set to introduce the same laws soon.

Georgie has a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Public Relations/ Communications from Deakin University. She is passionate about using her skills for justice and believes in solidarity and intersectionality between social justice movements.

Biography (Bruce): In his professional life, Bruce has worked as a consulting Project Manager in the InfoTech sphere for much of his career. He has been the founder and director of several for-profit companies and not-for-profit charities.

After working on the promotion of plant-based diets for much of the last 30 years, he is also the current President of the Animal Justice Party in Australia, which seeks to represent the interests of non-human animals in the political sphere, and is the Parliamentary Adviser to Andy Meddick MP. He has a long record of leading and winning campaigns to win legislative change for animals.

Bruce has a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science).

PRESENTER



JOANNE LEE

ANTI-SPECIESIST & LIBERATIONIST

Engaging with the media

Summary: In this session Joanne will share lessons learnt through her personal experience in dealing with the media; including insights from interviews with The Project, 3AW Mornings with Neil Mitchell and The Sunday Night Program.

Topics covered will include; shaping your message, responding to questions, being professional and relatable and the importance of language.

There will also be an opportunity for attendees to take part in a simulated media interview

Biography: Joanne has been vegan for 5 years and started her activism in journey in January 2017. Her activism has focused on civil disobedience; including disruptions, shutdowns, and open rescue. She was part of the infamous Steakhouse Disruption, which received global media attention, and she has appeared on The Project, 3AW and the Sunday Night Program.

Joanne took a step back from organising at the start of this year to train, empower and up-skill activists from around the globe.

More recently, Joanne has been focussed on animal rescue and rehabilitation as well as contributing to an online information source that she co-created called 'Planting the Future'. The page offers insights, provides education and promotes discussion around current and emerging plant-based food and nutrition trends.

PRESENTER



JAMES WILDMAN

- HUMANE EDUCATOR
ANIMAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

Confessions of a Humane Educator - 101 Ways to Give an Effective Presentation

📧 animalsflorida
www.arff.org

Summary: James Wildman will give his experiences - humorous stories of his successes and failures - as a Humane Educator; hoping to inspire others to bring animal rights into the classroom. The presentation will give tips on how to give an effective presentation and the best strategies to get into schools and universities. James will discuss the presentation designs and activities that have worked best in the classroom and for those outside of a school setting. He will talk about the approaches he has taken over the last 11 years in regards to contacting schools and teachers; what works best and how to alleviate any parent/administration issues from arising. The presentation will also provide tips on how to present to different age groups in regards to the lessons he covers, which include veganism, animals in captivity, wildlife conservation, animal testing, and companion animals.

Biography: James Wildman has been the Humane Educator for the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida since 2007. Each year, he gives around 500 presentations, reaching over 10,000 students and adults in South Florida.

PRESENTER



HARLEY MCDONALD-ECKERSALL

Animal Rights Under Occupation: Lessons From the Palestinian Animal League

Summary: The 'Palestine Problem' may be much discussed in human rights circles, but is there a place for animal rights activism under occupation? This presentation will explore the work of the Palestinian Animal League, drawing on their innovative approach to tackling animal, human and land rights and evaluating what lessons we, in Australia, may use for our own advocacy. Animal rights in Palestine offers us a valuable perspective into a different model of community run, grassroots advocacy, one that could give us key insights into how we can adapt our own organisations to be more inclusive and collaborative.

Biography: Harley McDonald-Eckersall is a Melbourne based, anti-speciest activist with a passion for collaborative, community focused change-making which empowers communities to take control of their future. In early 2019 Harley visited Palestine with the Palestinian Animal League, gaining a new perspective on the interconnections between animal and human rights.

PRESENTER



CLAIRE DICARLO

COMMUNICATIONS &
CAMPAIGNING SPECIALIST

Why aren't more progressives vegan? How to avoid major messaging mistakes that repel our biggest potential allies.

f dicarloclaire
@ clairedicarlo
Claire_Dicarlo
www.clairedicarlo.com

Summary: Words matter. Are we choosing the right ones?

Most of us would assume that people who care deeply about equality, climate change and workers rights (and who generally sit on the left end of the political spectrum) are the group most likely to fight for animals too.

However, the people getting behind causes like #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, #ChangeTheDate, and Stop Adani aren't always adding 'Go Vegan' to their list of calls to action.

Progressive conferences regularly leave animal issues off the agenda, and the not-for-profit sector is still littered with people who want to build a kinder world, but have not made the decision to be vegan.

Could the way we talk about veganism be playing a role in this?

In this session, we'll deep dive into the most commonly used vegan campaign messaging, and analyse its impact on progressives, based on new research. We'll learn how to leave our ego at the door, and craft messages that actually

PRESENTER



DAVID KILLOREN

DIANOIA INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY,
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY,
MELBOURNE

Introduction to Animal Ethics & Moral Philosophy

Summary: Animal ethics has been an active subdiscipline of moral philosophy for at least 45 years, when Peter Singer's ground breaking book Animal Liberation was published. This session will provide an overview of the field and will cover some of the most important recent debates and disagreement

Biography: David Killoren is an American philosopher.

David co-produced a philosophy podcast, Hi-Phi Nation.

PRESENTER



ASHLEE LOUISE

Self Care & Burnout among
Animal Rights Activists

faat_headd & please_see_us
(photography page may not be appropriate)

Summary: A discussion around mental health, common mental illnesses that activists are experiencing at present, self care and how important this can be for longevity.

Biography: Social work graduate, Disability support worker and investigative photographer with an avid interest in mental health, and self care within the community.

PRESENTER



HANNA LUCAS

VOICELESS: THE ANIMAL PROTECTION
INSTITUTE

The importance of teaching Animal Protection Education in Australian high schools.

f voiceless.institute
@ voiceless.org.au

Summary: In this presentation, Hanna will discuss the importance of animal protection education for high school students. Animal protection is still not taught explicitly within Australian schools, with most Australian students completing their schooling without ever being required to learn about animal protection issues. Over the past two years, Voiceless has delivered school talks and workshops to hundreds of high school students across the country, and created educational toolkits on a range of topics, including dolphin captivity and the property status of non-human animals.

Hanna will explain Voiceless' current approach to animal protection education (APE) by examining one of their most recent educational toolkits regarding the sentience and capabilities of fishes. Hanna will then discuss Voiceless' current project on the use of animals in fashion. This APE investigates the use of animal fur, hair, scales, skin and feathers within the fashion industry, and encourages students to think critically about the ethics of using animal derived products in fashion.

At Voiceless, we believe that it is crucial to educate the youth of today on such issues, as they will become the change-

PRESENTER



KIMBERLEY OXLEY

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA

How to use social media to shape a kinder world (while being kind to yourself)

Personal
f kimberley.m.ox
kimberleyoxley
@ kimber_lina

Professional
f animalsaustralia
animalsaus
@ animalsaustralia

Summary: The internet LOVES animals – they're still one of the most popular categories for social media content. That should make our jobs easy right? The truth is when advocating for systemic change, there's more to a successful media strategy than cute animal videos or sad or graphic animal facts. I'll talk about how to use social media most effectively to advocate for animals, including tips for success, pitfalls to avoid, the importance of self-care, and how to prepare a social media strategy for your next campaign.

Biography: Kimberley Oxley is the Social Media Manager at Animals Australia. In recent years Kimberley has overseen the growth of the Animals Australia Facebook page from 60,000 to 1.6 million followers to become Australia's largest charity page. Born and raised in Geelong, she has been an animal advocate for more than twenty years and is passionate about harnessing the power of social media for social justice, using values-based messaging to connect with audiences, and sparking valuable discussions about animal rights.

PRESENTER



DANIEL BEECHER

PHOENIX LEGAL SOLUTIONS

Practical tips to help activists prepare for, and resist, the rising tide of authoritarianism

Summary: Daniel will share some observations and practical tips to help activists prepare for (and resist) the rising tide of authoritarianism.

Biography: Daniel Beecher is a lawyer based in Melbourne, where he has assisted many animal activists and animal protection groups.

PRESENTER

**AMY KIDD**

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA

A global perspective on meat reduction

Summary: The meat reduction trend continues to grow, which is great news for animals. GlobalData research has indicated that 70% of the world's population are reducing their meat consumption. How can we work within this space to have the greatest impact for animals? With insights from experts, innovators and advocates at 2019's global Reducetarian Summit in Washington DC, I'll share some of the tactics and strategies that are being used around the world to reduce societal consumption of animal products.

Biography: Amy Kidd is the Veg Program Manager at Animals Australia. She has extensive experience in digital campaigning and strategy, and a keen interest in the motivators for human behaviour change. She is passionate about a wide range of social justice issues and the power of innovative communications to unite people and create change. Her interests include yoga, dystopian fiction/(current affairs) and coffee. Her favourite animal changes on a daily basis. Today, it's bees.

PRESENTER

**DR PETER JOHNSTON**

PHD, MSC, BSC (HONS), BA. ACCREDITED PRACTISING DIETITIAN.

Perfect Human Food Consulting & Doctors for Nutrition
What is the perfect human food?

Summary: You wouldn't put diesel into a petrol car. It is equally important to put the correct fuel into our amazing human bodies. In this talk Dr Johnston will outline the harms caused by the wrong foods and the enormous benefits of eating the right foods.

Biography: Originally from Dunedin, New Zealand, Peter became exclusively plant-based in 1991 after reading John Robbins' book Diet for a New America whilst employed in Montreal, Canada as a post-doctoral research fellow. He has developed and runs a workplace-based program known as The Wholefood Solution where staff receive intensive support to go whole food plant-based for three weeks – a first for Australia! Peter is an accredited practicing dietitian with a Masters degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, has a PhD in human genetics, an honours degree in Zoology and a BA in psychology.

Peter is driven to achieve optimum health, both in himself and in others. He is a dedicated yoga practitioner, cycles 200km on most weeks, skis very fast, and competes in speed windsurfing, with a personal best of 42 knots (77km/hr).

Peter spent a decade as a left wing political activist campaigning in three countries and five cities.

PRESENTER

**BETTY MELON**

COLLECTIVELY FREE – MELBOURNE

Forming Alliances with Other Movements

📷 bettymelon
f Collectively Free - Melbourne

Summary: We are stronger together, but how do we join forces with those already fighting for social change? This presentation will examine the common barriers, which prevent other movements from including animals in their fight against oppression. We will also go over how animal rights activists can be beneficial allies to animals and other marginalised groups. We have a lot we can learn from other movements and their history and they too can learn from us. So let's work towards building mutually beneficial anti-oppression movements.

Biography: Betty is an agricultural scientist/agronomist specialising in plant diseases as well as an animal rights, human rights and environmental activist. Betty has previously spoken at the ICAS 'Community as Activism' forum and on 3CR Freedom of Species radio. She is passionate about bridging the gap between animal rights and other movements as we work towards our goal for Collective Animal, Human and Earth liberation.

PRESENTER

**CLARE MANN**

VEGAN PSYCHOLOGIST

Why People Won't Change and What You Can Do About It.

Summary: People resist change in all aspects of their lives, not just veganism and non-speciesism. As animal activists, we become frustrated that, after sharing the inherent cruelty of people's choices, they still don't change. It is essential to understand the unquestioned assumptions that underpin their decision-making. By using the notion of social and cultural myths we can more easily break the trance and help people make kinder choices.

In this interactive workshop, we will examine four different activism roles that occur in any social justice movement. By applying and understanding the myths that underpin people's behaviour, we can work to reducing their resistance and increase the chance of them changing. You will leave this workshop feeling more empowered in your activism.

Biography: Clare Mann is a psychologist, existential psychotherapist, author, and communications trainer. She runs a part-time private vegan psychology practice in Sydney as well as working with vegans all over the world via Skype/Facetime.

She is the author of numerous books, including Vystopia: The Anguish of Being Vegan in a Non-Vegan World (2018) and her new book, Myths of Choice: Why People Won't Change and What You Can Do About It (2019). Clare co-founded the Vegan Voices Campaign, a national initiative to

PRESENTER

**MATTHEW PETER**

AUSSIE FARMS AND DOMINION MOVEMENT

Security culture and Aussie Farms update

Summary: With the recent laws directly targeting animal activism never before has the movement been at such risk by electronic surveillance and infiltration. It's not only a major risk to our personal wellbeing and freedom but also the sustainability and effectiveness of our activism and the movement as a whole. The minimum we should be doing is making the oppositions job as difficult as possible by embedding security measures in everything we do.

Topics covered include:

- » Why we need to make this a priority
- » Aussie Farms best practices around data, communication and general behaviours
- » notable history of surveillance and opposition disruption
- » current knowledge of opposition activity
- » an overview of the past few months and the future direction of AF

Biography: Assistant Producer - Dominion

Director of strategy - Aussie Farms

Having quit his job in pharmaceuticals seven years ago, Matthew traveled the world looking for his calling. He found it when he decided to dedicate his life to animal rights. Starting out as crew for a film about the history of animal rights

PRESENTER

**DOUG LEITH**

MELBOURNE SAVE ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES.

Animal experiments; we have the evidence to end vivisection.

Summary: The long unchallenged belief that animal experiments save humans, popularised in slogans such as "Your child or the dog", pulls at the heart strings and bypasses investigation but this premise needs to be questioned. If widely believed then the public will remain polarised on this issue with the large majority reluctantly accepting it.

If the public was to even scratch the surface of this claim they would realise that not only does this choice not exist but in fact, to quote Dr Ayshe Akhtar; "...animal experimentation often significantly harms humans through misleading safety studies, potential abandonment of effective therapeutics, and direction of resources away from more effective testing methods."!

Through reference to major historical claims of human benefit from vivisection and modern day claims of it being our only hope for a cure it will become clear that not only did these benefits not come from vivisection but in fact it prevents and delays cures, cruelly and expensively, and urgently needs to be replaced with valid methods.

Biography: Doug has been involved in animal activism since 1989 and is pleased to be witnessing a rise in veganism and activism. He feels fortunate to have been involved with Animal Liberation, the Freedom of Science, and the Australian

PRESENTER #



MONIKA MERKES

HUMANE RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

Better ways to do research – Methods and technologies that can replace animals in biomedical research and testing

@ HRAust
@ monikamerkes

Summary: The use of animals in research, testing, training and education is often considered a necessary evil. Animal advocates consider it unethical, but there are also other problems: animal experimentation is costly, lengthy and not very effective. Besides, it may have held back the discovery of treatments and cures for humans because they did not work well in animals.

There are better ways to do research: Innovative in-vitro methods (performed with microorganisms, tissues, whole cells or parts of cells in test tubes, Petri dishes etc.), computer-based methods, studies with human volunteers, and simulators. These methods will be described, together with examples of how they can be used.

We will also look at how we can advocate for an end to animal research and promote the use of humane, more effective ways of research.

Biography: Monika Merkes PhD (public health) is the President of Humane Research Australia. She has spent her professional life in state and local governments, the community sector and academia as a social researcher and developing social and health policy. Monika is an Honorary

PRESENTER #



MARK BANAHAN

THE VEGAN SOCIETY (UK)

Update from UK Vegan Society on their campaigns & policy work

@ TheVeganSociety
@ MarkBanahan

Summary: The Vegan Society is the world's oldest vegan organization, founded back in 1944 by Donald Watson. Since then it has been at the forefront of all things vegan, from making vegan products more accessible and recognizable through their vegan sunflower logo, to campaigning for more vegan friendly government policy. Mark will give an overview of The Vegan Society's campaigns and political work, including the quest to get a guaranteed vegan option on every public sector menu, and to increase political support for a shift to a more plant-based agricultural system to help tackle the climate emergency. Find out all about the methods, strategy, frustrations and successes of their campaigns and policy work, in trying to bring about a more vegan world.

Biography: Mark is Campaigns Manager at The Vegan Society. He oversees campaigns which promote the benefits of veganism to the wider public, support existing vegans, and seek to achieve more vegan friendly policy. Mark previously led The Vegan Society's 'Catering for Everyone' campaign, which calls for a vegan option on every public sector menu. Find out more here: www.vegansociety.com/cateringforeveryone

PRESENTER #



KRISTIN LEIGH

VEGAN RISING

Making Your Protest Count: How to Plan, Organise and Execute a Powerful Protest

f VegansAreRising
t VeganRising
@ Vegan_Rising

Summary: Protest has played an essential role in social change throughout history. In her presentation, Kristin will explore the power and limitations of non-disruptive or legal forms of protest vs those which engage in acts of civil disobedience. She will draw on examples from history and from her own personal experiences to examine how we can best move towards animal liberation and offer step by step guidance on how to plan, organise and execute a powerful protest.

Biography: Kristin is a highly motivated and engaged animal liberation activist dedicating her work towards grassroots advocacy, non-violent direct action, and politics. She has run twice as a candidate for the Animal Justice Party, using the platform to not only work toward achieving legal protections for animals but to also educate of their suffering and promote veganism. She is Campaign Director for Melbourne Against Horse-Drawn Carriages - the movement responsible for the recent removal of carriage street-trade permits and has managed countless fundraising and vegan outreach initiatives. Kristin has successfully coordinated and/or engaged in many direct actions including rescues,

PRESENTER #



ALEX VINCE

ANIMAL LIBERATION / COALITION OF AUSTRALIANS AGAINST 1080 POISON

Giving the Feral A Face: Using the Law, Ethics and Language to Save Lives

f AnimalLiberationORG
f coalitionagainst1080
@ animalliberationorg
@ coalitionagainst1080

Summary: Focusing on the animals often at the edges of our daily lives and ethics of care, this presentation begins with the premise that all species share the same status and applies an ethic of care to every animal - regardless of utility or use to humans. It does so by highlighting the extreme ways unwanted or unwelcome urban or suburban wildlife species are treated in order to emphasise that our ethics must actively extend beyond animals farmed for food; it must include those whose homes, habitats, and livelihoods are impacted by the very human pathology of breeding animals for food. It includes discussion on unsustainable development (human settlements or industrial agriculture) and misguided ideas around saving some (usually "natives") by killing others (usually "pests"). It includes discussion on network-building, using the development and strategies of the Coalition of Australians Against 1080 Poison as an example. It will also include discussions on fostering unlikely friendships to achieve a common goal. To provide context, a case study of a successful campaign led by Animal

PRESENTER #



EMMA HURST AND ANDY MEDDICK

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

The journey to parliament: how we got elected for animals and our plans as MPs

t AndyMeddickMP
f AndyMeddickMP
f EmmaHurstMP
@ AndyMeddickMP
@ emma.hurst

Summary: The Animal Justice Party is the only political party in Australia dedicated to protecting animals. With three Members of Parliament elected in just four years the party is rapidly becoming a political powerhouse for animals. Our Victorian and New South Wales MPs are already taking huge steps forward for animals, holding the government to account, and introducing bills to end animal cruelty.

In just six months since being elected in the 2018 Victorian State Election, Andy is already making a positive difference to the lives of animals by introducing a bill to ban duck shooting, securing \$500,000 for Wildlife Victoria and successfully bringing amendments to the government's Guardianship and Administration Bill to include greater protection for companion animals.

In the recent New South Wales State Election the Animal Justice Party successfully won their second NSW Upper House MP, and despite the NSW government being heavily influenced by farming lobby groups, Emma is already using her role to protect both animals and animal activists and is fighting the Government's decision to put in place new penalties to prosecute

how they're using the Australian parliamentary system to end animal cruelty.

Biography (Emma): Emma was elected to the NSW Legislative Council representing the Animal Justice Party NSW at the recent state election on 23 March 2019. Prior to being elected as a Member of the NSW Legislative Council, Emma was the National Campaign Manager for the Animal Justice Party. Emma is a Registered Psychologist, BA(Psy), PGDip(Psy), M(HealthPsy) and has worked in a variety of animal advocacy roles including campaigning, political lobbying, and media. Emma has followed a vegan lifestyle for many years, and previously competed as a plant-based bodybuilder.

Biography (Andy): Andy has been a dedicated animal rights campaigner and vegan for many years, and from early on recognised the critical role that the Australian parliamentary system plays in creating positive change for animals. He has devoted many years of his life to the Animal Justice Party and after standing as a candidate in many state and federal elections, he was successfully elected as a Member of the Legislative Council for Western Victoria in the recent 2018 Victorian State Election. Andy is also a passionate unionist, working in the construction industry for over two decades before becoming a member of parliament.

PRESENTER #



NICHOLA DONOVAN

LAWYERS FOR ANIMALS INC.

Animal cruelty law enforcement: a way forward

f lawyersforanimalsinc

Summary: Animal cruelty law enforcement: a way forward

Inadequate enforcement of animal protection laws has long been a source of immense frustration to animal activists who witness cruelty. Nichola Donovan, President of Lawyers for Animals, will lead a panel of experienced animal advocates in discussing philosophical and practical ideas to achieve improved enforcement of animal cruelty laws in Australia. This informative Q&A-style discussion will examine the existing system of law enforcement by charities, Departments of Agriculture and others; and consider international developments in order to posit a way forward. Activists will learn how they might contribute to an extraordinary new parliamentary inquiry in NSW that seeks to tackle this issue, head-on.

Biography: Nichola Donovan (BA, LLB, LLM) is an animal (including human) rights lawyer. She currently practises both animal and refugee law in a voluntary capacity. In 2005, Nichola joined Lawyers for Animals at its launch event and in 2007 was employed as its first Legal Projects Officer; before being elected honorary Secretary. Since 2009 Nichola has served as LFA's honorary President, steering a philosophical yet practical path to devise and promote legal reforms that will achieve world's best practice. Nichola is a committed

PRESENTER #



MEG CHANOM

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA

Critical Thinking: Tools for an Effective, Unified Movement for Animals

f megxvx

Summary: Can we strive to be more effective if we are not considering the realities of our current impact? Let's get inspired about using critical thinking around our roles, behaviours and actions for animals, so that we can consistently improve.

Biography: After studying in Communications, Meg has spent the better part of the last decade as a professional athlete and coach, while volunteering for animal and environmental causes in her spare time. To dedicate as much of her time to animals as possible, she is now part of the Development team at Animals Australia.

PRESENTER #



ANIMAL DEFENDERS OFFICE

K & R ANIMAL LAW (TARA WARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ADO; NAAMAN KRANZ, VOLUNTEER LAWYER AT THE ADO AND PARTNER OF K&R ANIMAL LAW; AND MIKE ROSALKY, LAWYER & DIRECTOR OF THE ADO AND PARTNER OF K&R ANIMAL LAW)

Animal activism and the law: How to advocate for animals without breaking the law.

f ADOACT
f kandranimalaw

Summary: This seminar will provide an overview of some of the most common laws affecting animal activists including laws relating to trespass, theft, defamation, injurious falsehood, surveillance devices, biosecurity, police powers and protesting. The seminar is designed to empower activists by explaining how to advocate for animals without breaking the law.



Biography (Mike): I have volunteered as a lawyer with the Animal Defenders Office since 2014. In this role, I provide legal advice and assistance to clients who want to protect animals from suffering, speak to groups about animal law in Australia, and advocate for better animal protection laws through public forums and meetings with politicians. With my friend Naaman, I established K & R Animal Law in 2019. It is a law firm dedicated to helping animals and their human defenders. Outside of these endeavours, I work as the Legal Counsel and Operations Manager for an IT firm.

(Naaman) For the past 8 years, Naaman has worked as a lawyer for the federal government, where he has specialised in migration, refugee, environmental and general administrative law. Naaman volunteers as a lawyer for the Animal Defenders Office. In 2019, Naaman and his friend Mike started the firm 'K & R Animal Law', which is dedicated to helping animals and their human defenders.

(Tara) Tara's first foray into activism was fighting to save a local tract of bushland from being destroyed for a freeway in the early 2000s in Canberra. However her main passion has always been animal rights, and since 2006 Tara has been actively involved in local animal liberation groups.

Tara has taught animal law at the University of NSW since 2008. In 2014 Tara co-founded Australia's first



Animal Defenders Office, a nationally accredited community legal centre run by volunteers who provide free legal services to help animals and their defenders. Tara has volunteered at the ADO as the Executive Director and Managing Solicitor since that time.

Tara is also on the ACT's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee which advises the Minister responsible for animal welfare, and an animal welfare category member on a university Animal Ethics Committee.

In 2019 Tara spent a few months on secondment as an adviser in the NSW Parliamentary office of the Hon. Mark Pearson, Animal Justice Party, and was privileged to witness the start of the new Parliament with two Animal Justice Party members in the Upper House (Mark Pearson and Emma Hurst).

Finally, Tara is a co-founder of, and volunteer event organiser for, the Living Green Festival (ACT) Inc., which has been bringing vegan festivals and markets to the Nation's capital since 2011.'

PRESENTER #



DAVID KILLOREN & RICHARD ROWLAND

DIANOIA INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY, AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE

What do we really have to do?

f david.killoren
f richard.rowland.165

Summary: Rowland believes that we are obligated to be activists but are not obligated to be vegan. Killoren believes that we are obligated to be vegan but are not obligated to be activists. In this presentation, Rowland and Killoren will both explain their reasons for their views. It is all but certain that their disagreement will remain unresolved at the end of the session. A significant fraction of the time will be reserved for audience participation and discussion.

Biography: Richard Rowland is a British philosopher. David Killoren is an American philosopher.

David & Richard co-produced a philosophy podcast, Hi-Phi Nation. The following episode offers a preview of their approach to animal activism and (un)civil disobedience:

<https://hiphination.org/season-3-episodes/s3-episode-8-uncivil-disobedience/>




PRESENTER #



PABLO BARNES

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA

Creating effective video content for animals

-  kicasso
-  pablokicasso
-  PabsBarnes

Summary: Video is by far the most effective form of digital communication. In fact viewers retain 95% of a message when they watch it in a video compared to 10% when reading it in text. Video also has a crucial role to play in our movement, from documenting the cruelty animals suffer in exploitative systems, to sharing the stories of animals that have escaped these conditions. This presentation will explore the role video plays in our movement, and some ways we can make the most of video to effectively communicate our message. We will focus on some practical advice that aims to give activists and organisations the tools to create engaging video on behalf of animals as efficiently and cheaply as possible. We will also discuss how to craft effective, inclusive messages in our videos so that we can reach as many people as possible

Biography: Pablo is an experienced video producer and advocate with a strong passion for visual storytelling and social justice. Using the knowledge gained from years working in the TV, film and advertising industries, Pablo spends most of his time crafting effective, high quality video for Animals Australia's huge social media audience and influential campaigns. Over the years Pablo has worked on a wide variety of issues from greyhound racing to farm animal welfare.

PRESENTER #



PANEL DISCUSSION

ANDY MEDDICK (ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY, MP VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT), CHAY NEAL (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL LIBERATION QLD), ELIO CELOTTO (CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR FOR COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RACEHORSES), CLARE MANN (VEGAN PSYCHOLOGIST) & DOUG LEITH (MELBOURNE ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES) & GLENYS OOGJES (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ANIMALS AUSTRALIA)

Hosted by Ron Prasad.

What do activists think is the best and most effective way forward in the coming year?




PRESENTER #



GREG MCFARLANE

VEGAN AUSTRALIA

If Australia goes vegan, will there be enough land to feed everyone?

-  VeganAustralia
-  veganaustralia
-  veganaustraliaofficial

Summary: For some people one of the barriers to going vegan is the concern that the environment and the economy will not be able to support a vegan world. They worry that we won't be able to feed everyone if we can't eat animals. They wonder what would happen to the land that was previously used for animal agriculture. They are concerned if there will be enough water to move to a completely animal free system. And they worry that jobs and the economy will collapse if we shut down the animal agriculture industry. This talk will look at the facts behind these questions and hopes to provide you with the knowledge and confidence to respond to these sorts of questions in your advocacy work.

Biography: Greg McFarlane has been involved with the animal rights and vegan movements for the last 15 years and is currently a director of Vegan Australia. As part of his work there he has been involved in writing submissions to government enquiries into such topics as the National Food Plan, the Australian Dietary Guidelines, chronic disease, animal welfare standards, the greyhound industry, fisheries and regulation of agriculture. Each of these submissions argues for the end of animal agriculture and all other uses of animals. Greg has been vegan for 20 years. His favourite animal is the Feral Mink.







PRESENTER #



NICK PENDERGRAST

THE INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ANIMAL STUDIES, OCEANIA

Who is to blame for harm to animals?

-  icasoceania
-  ProgPodcast
-  FOSradio
-  Institute-for-Critical-Animal-Studies-Oceania-332818656755188
-  progpodcast
-  freedomofspecies

Summary:

This talk will cover what sociological theories have to offer the debate over who is to blame for harm to animals. The animal advocacy movement is very focused on individuals' contribution to animal exploitation through their purchases and encouraging people to choose veganism to avoid this harm. While I absolutely support this strategy, I will highlight the way that sociological theories encourage us to look beyond the individual and towards larger factors that have significant impacts, including influencing individual choices. In the case of animal exploitation, governments and animal-using industries are particularly important in this regard. I will give practical advice on how we can incorporate an acknowledgement of harm caused by these industries, and not just individuals, into our vegan outreach. I will also explore some other tactics that can be used to complement vegan outreach, including disruptive actions at the point of production and advocating for government policies that support individual and community-level change.



PRESENTER #



NATASHA & LUCA 'THAT VEGAN COUPLE'

THAT VEGAN COUPLE

Vegan - It's The Least We Can Do

-  that_vegan_couple
-  ThatVeganCouple

Summary: Why is animal rights activism important and how can people can get involved in the movement and advocate for animals in some way? What is the most effective form of activism and does direct action work, or is it counter-productive? How can we use social media as a powerful tool for change and deal with online backlash and hate?

Biography: Natasha and Luca 'That Vegan Couple' are social media influencers and animal rights activists. They have over 23 million views on their YouTube channel, and millions more on Instagram and Facebook. In addition to organizing international activism tours, they have been invited as international speakers to attend vegan and animal rights events and conferences in North America, Europe, and Israel.

PRESENTER #



OLLY HORNING

COLLECTIVELY FREE MELBOURNE

Consensus, Octopuses, Hierarchy & Starfishes? Activist Group Structures & Decision Making Models

Summary: In this talk, Olly will discuss different group structures & decisions making models for building your campaign & activist community. The talk will concentrate on historical & present day examples of grassroots groups using a variety of different structures & decision making models to fulfill the strategy of their specific campaigns. There will be opportunities during this talk for attendees to practice different decision making models such as consensus, citizens assembly & affinity grouping. There will also be time for participants to discuss their own group structure & decision making experiences in smaller breakout groups.

Biography: Olly is a settler that lives on Wurundjeri country in so-called Melbourne. He has been mainly involved in climate change & refugee rights activism as well as supporting First Nations struggles. Olly would like to thank the communities involved with Frontline Action On Coal, Whistleblowers Activist Community Alliance & EvoLens Collective for the shared knowledge and experiences which have largely made this presentation possible. He'd also especially like to acknowledge all the members of Collectively Free Melbourne for their input & help with the presentation as well as for their ongoing presence as friends & fellow campaigners.

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PRESENTER



BRETT THOMPSON

CREDENCE INSTITUTE

Unconscious Capitalism: How the market offers a shortcut to animal liberation

brettvthompson

Summary: Unconscious Capitalism How the market offers a shortcut to animal liberation

As advocates and activists, we generally put all our focus on the reasons for not eating animals and animal products. We are quick to point out the health benefits of a plant-based diet, the environmental destruction caused by livestock, and the heinous animal abuse that occurs in factory farms.

However, there is a significant body of research that suggests that this is not the most effective way to get people to reduce their use of animal products. Spouting a stream of facts may, in fact, result in people reinforcing their currently held beliefs instead of opening their minds to new information and changing their behaviour. With this problem in mind, there is a new crop of food tech startups and entrepreneurs who are finding a solution and turning the traditional animal-based food industry on its head.

By promoting the how to go vegan over the why go vegan, and offering solutions in the form of clean and plant-based meat; can we disrupt the market and make a harmful food industry obsolete without a single protest sign?

How did nylon reduce the demand for mutton? Why did kerosene save the

PRESENTER



DR ASH NAYATE

Overcoming anti-vegan resistance: working smarter, not harder

thisisdrash
 vegan_neuropsychologist
www.ashnayate.com

Summary: As veganism grows and animal activism becomes more prolific, activists increasingly find themselves in the centre of "vegans versus farmers" controversy. More widely, while veganism is increasing in popularity, there is also greater anti-vegan sentiment in the media and from some sections of the general public.

Biography: Dr Ash Nayate is a vegan neuropsychologist, activist, and author of the book "Staying Positive in a F*cked Up World". She became an overnight vegan in 2008 after seeing the documentary "Earthlings". Ash is a strong advocate for positive mental health amongst activists, which she does through her blog and social media channels, as well as her private practice in Melbourne.

PRESENTER



JOANNE MADDEN AND TREV WEEDON

COLLECTIVELY FREE – MELBOURNE

Language and Messaging: how not to undermine your advocacy

Summary: This interactive workshop will take an in depth look at language and communication as fundamental to strategy. If we are to successfully convey a message to the public or stakeholders in the animal industrial complex, care must be taken to ensure the language choices do not inadvertently undermine our goals or open us up to avoidable and derailing criticism.

The framing of a message can either create opportunities to legitimise animal rights as a social justice movement, or reinforce dismissive attitudes towards it, from both progressive and mainstream groups. We will draw on, and make accessible, elements of critical discourse analysis and ecolinguistics to gain an understanding of how we can better represent and centre nonhuman animals and articulate the systems that oppress them. We will also look at examples of language, including that reported in the media, to consider how effectively they align with intentions and strategies.

We will consider the possibility of replacing dominant discourses with counter-discourses and avoiding shifting the focus away from the oppressed group by framing the issue as a human one e.g. the farmer versus vegan narrative.

Biography: We have taken the time to

FORUM TEAM

Roy Taylor, Leticia Johnson, Shane Sims, Natalia Jones, Helen Rose,
Ric Allport

VOLUNTEERS

Mel Black • Ed Denham • Catherine Dickens • Christine Hahn • Saskja Hahn • Leticia Johnson •
Natalia Jones • David Kaminski • Vasundra Kandpal • Fiona Mihelakis • Tamara Nightingale •
Fraser Paterson • Tracey Paterson • Jayson Sim • Charlie Sonnemann • Roy Taylor



More information on our presenters and their talks can be found at:

activistsforum.com
or facebook.com/activistsforum

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