

‘IT’S POLITICS!’

2023 AJP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



DAY 1

8.30 am	Registration		
8.55 am	Main Stage	Bronwyn Currie	Welcome, Housekeeping & Acknowledgement of Country
9.00 am		Angela Pollard	President's Conference Opening
9.15 am		Louise Pfeiffer	Core Business: Elections
10.00 am		Trish Ennis	Companion Animals Network: Campaigns, partnerships and initiatives that celebrate the human-animal bond
10.30 am	Morning Tea – Catering by Nine Bakery		
11.00am	Main Stage	Georgie Purcell MP	Update from our Member of the Legislative Council, representing Northern Victoria Region
		Emma Hurst MP	Update from our Member of the Legislative Council, representing New South Wales
		Cr Julie Sloan	Update from our Councillor for the Greater City of Bendigo, representing Whipstick Ward
		Cr Matt Stellino	Update from our Councillor for the City of Campbelltown
12.00 pm		Panel Discussion	Our elected Representatives field questions from the Members attending and online
12.30 pm	Lunch – Catering by Plant Rich Catering		
1.30 pm	Main Stage	Policy Team	The Policy Working Group presents our set of policies, their formulation and discuss Animal Law
		Panel Discussion	The Policy Working Group field policy questions from Members attending and joining online
	Reading Room	Elizbeth Melican	Clinic: Letter Writing for Advocacy
	Online Room 1	Louise Ward	State Volunteering Opportunities for NSW Members
	Online Room 2	Michael Anango	State Volunteering Opportunities for WA Members
2.40 pm	Main Stage	Natalie Kopas	Lessons Learned: A year of Victorian advocacy
	Reading Room	Mike Fuery	Rationality in an Age of Distrust - A toolbox of skepticism for the animal rights movement
3.10 pm	Main Stage	Kel Watt	Electoral Campaigning for Political Animals
	Reading Room	Silva Mirovics	Conscious Leadership: Inspire change with Kindness, Purpose and Courage
3.40 pm	Afternoon Tea – Catering by Nine Bakery		
4.00 pm	Reading Room	Adam Cardilini	Campaign Clinic: Structured, time constrained process for generating new ideas for campaigns by inviting a range of rapid-fire, fresh perspectives
4.00 pm		Emma Håkansson	Collective Fashion Justice: How the fashion industry harms animals, and how politics can help to transform the industry to better protect them
4.30 pm	Main Stage	Kyle Behrend	NFPs.AI: A future where not-for-profits confidently leverage AI technology to innovate and make a significant impact on the communities they serve
5.00 pm		Bronwyn Currie	Recap and Close

DAY 2

8.30 am Registration

8.55 am Bronwyn Currie Welcome, Housekeeping & Acknowledgement of Country

9.00 am Main Stage Paul Bevan CEO, Magic Valley: Future of Food

9.45 am Michelle Thomas Shelter Director, Animalia Wildlife Shelter : Wildlife Rescue and what I wish politicians knew

10.15 am Morning Tea – Catering by Nine Bakery

10.45 am Main Stage State & Territory Convenors Updates from AJP Branches Around the Country

12.00 pm Lunch – Catering by Plant Rich Catering

1.00 pm Main Stage Delegates Debate Topic 1: “The colour and format of the Party’s branding/materials should be changed to purple tones”

1.30 pm Delegates Debate Topic 2: “AJP can improve its vote by advocating for nuclear power”

*Delegate Debates are a chance to push boundaries on subject matter that might rarely get airtime. The results are always indicative only but do suggest the will of delegates and possibility for further work for the Party in an area.

2.00pm Conference Close

2.00 pm Annual General Meeting

2.00 pm Main Stage AJP Board Annual General Meeting

3.00 pm Returning Officer AJP Board of Directors Election

3.10pm AGM Close



Bronwyn Currie

Conference MC, Convenor for

[AJP Victoria](#) & [Candidate for Mulgrave byelection](#)

Based in Boonwurrung Country, Bronwyn has broad experience across her career, working in the Victorian public sector in senior HR consultancy, operated small businesses, held executive committee positions with many local community organisations, supported many animal and environmental groups and championed equal rights for women.

She has been the Regional Leader of the South-Eastern Metro region, a Party Delegate and has been a candidate for the AJP at each level of government and is now Victorian Lead Senate candidate for the upcoming federal election. Bronwyn is feeling inspired and ready for the challenges as Convenor of the Victorian state Branch of the AJP.



Angela Pollard

AJP President

An active AJP member for eight years, Angela has served as State Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Elections Manager. She has also served as an ordinary member on the Board of Directors. Angela has stood as a candidate for the Animal Justice Party several times in state and federal elections, including as a Lead Senate candidate.

A keen vegan gardener, she lives in rural NSW on an ex-dairy farm where she works to regenerate local rainforest and support local wildlife. After an extensive career working in legal aid and community legal centres (with a special interest in organisational governance, animal law and social justice), Angela is currently a senior advisor to Mark Pearson, MLC and a passionate animal advocate.



Louise Pfeiffer

AJP Vice-President &
Director of Elections

After studying psychology at university, Louise gained post-graduate qualifications in financial planning and a Master Of Business Administration. After deciding to use her business skills in the political arena, she joined AJP in 2017. Her wide financial and business experience led to her roles as former SA State Convenor, Lead Senate Candidate and current AJP Director of Elections and Marketing.

She is currently on the SA State Committee. Louise's key focus is on helping farmers to transition to move to more sustainable, plant-based crops and business models. She is confident that greater kindness towards animals will lead to a better future: not just for animals, but for people and the planet.



Trish Ennis

CEO,

[Companion Animal Network - Australia CAN](#)

Trish started her working career as a nurse training at the Royal Children's and the Austin Hospitals in Melbourne. She then moved into marketing and started her own Marketing Agency servicing many multinational companies with projects including product launches, design, branding, events, sales promotion and advertising.

Trish is an experienced, strategic Marketing, Communications and Event Management Leader who turned her talents to the Not-for-Profit sector working with charities such as Cathy Freeman Foundation, Camp Quality, Leading Aged Services, Music Outback Foundation, Cabrini Hospital Emergency Department and Bayley House. Trish joined us (formerly Animal Welfare League Australia) in 2019. With the support of the Board, AWLA was then transformed into CANA focusing on Companion Animals, the human-animal bond and everything it takes to build and sustain a better place for animals and humans alike.



Georgie Purcell MP

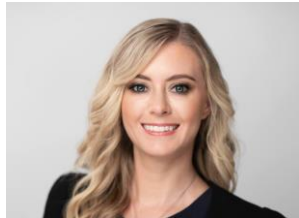
Victorian Legislative Council,
Northern Victoria Region

georgiepurcell.com.au

Georgie is committed to making sure everyone in Victoria is equal and respected, no matter their gender, sexuality, race, class, or anything else.

Georgie's key priorities are improving animal protection laws and vet care access, fighting to end injustices within horse and greyhound racing, banning duck shooting, supporting innovative plant-based agricultural developments, and protecting wildlife.

Here to make a difference for animals, people and planet, Georgie ran for Parliament as she felt politics was not diverse enough, missing the voices of young women, including those with more colourful backgrounds.



The Hon. Emma HURST, MLC

Member of the Legislative
Council, NSW

emmahurst.com

A former psychologist, Emma has worked tirelessly for the rights of animals for many years with a background in campaigning, political lobbying, and media work. She has been vegan for over 20 years.

Since she was elected in March 2019, Emma has used her time in Parliament to fight for important reforms for animals. Over the last four years, she has secured over \$60 million in Government funding for animal protection, mandated the 'right to release' for animals used in experimentation, outlawed convenience killing in pounds, banned the use of dolphins and whales for entertainment, increased penalties for animal cruelty, introduced legislation to ban puppy farming, and ran Parliamentary inquiries into battery cages and the dairy industry.



Cr Julie Sloan

Councillor for Whipstick Ward,
City of Greater Bendigo, VIC

A lifelong resident of Bendigo, Julie completed nurse training at Northern District School of Nursing, postgraduate studies at La Trobe University, Bendigo, and has worked in community health for 18 years.

Julie cares deeply about protecting animals, promoting community wellbeing, and caring for country. She supports wildlife rescue groups, created Land for Wildlife refuge to protect wildlife and habitat, and has been a Catchment Management Authority Waterwatch volunteer, a member of Jobs Gully Natural Features Reserve action group, and a Watermark Convener with Victorian Women's Trust.

Julie supports healthy, engaged communities, free from fear and violence. She advocates additional cycling/walking paths in appropriate locations, Forest protection, and Creative Hubs where artists and story-tellers connect us to culture and each other.



Cr Amanda Dorn

Councillor for Altone Ward,
City of Swan, WA

Amanda Dorn (WA state committee member) has recently been elected to the City of Swan local council for Altone Ward with an eye watering 34% first preference vote!

While, Amanda was endorsed by the AJP, local council candidates in WA do not run on party platforms. Amanda ran her own campaign with leafleting, door knocking - all while setting up and running regular AJP stalls unrelated to the election!

We are so proud of her, and we know she is going to do great things, particularly when it comes to kangaroo protection which is very relevant in the Swan local area.

POLiCY WORKING GROUP

Policy Working Group

National AJP Working Group

Members from the National Working Group for Policy will be hosting a session explaining AJP policy.

- Adam Cardilini will talk about policies as a coherent set
- Tim Lavers will talk specifically about what goes into our policy
- Taylah Stewart will discuss Animal Law as a practical example

They'll then be joined by Geoff Russell & Monika Merkes, also from the Policy Working Group, to field questions from AJP members about their work on AJP policy and providing further explanation on policy formation and review processes.



Elizabeth Melican

National Training Manager

Based in Wurundjeri Country, Beth is a qualified school teacher, group facilitator and workplace trainer and assessor. She has worked extensively in the public and community sectors as a trainer and educator.

An active member of AJP since 2014, she is currently a member of VicCom and holds role of AJP's National Training Manager.



Louise Ward

State Director,

[AJP New South Wales](#)

Louise is the state director of the Animal Justice Party. Louise cares deeply about fairness and equality and kindness and has spent both her working life and personal life dedicated to addressing social justice issues.

As a qualified social worker she has worked in women's prisons as a drug and alcohol worker, in domestic violence services, in a range of Indigenous and disability and youth employment services and in a range of community development and organising roles that focus on environmental justice.



Michael Anango

State Convenor,

[AJP West Australia](#)

Michael has volunteered with the party since 2019, and ran as a candidate in the 2021 state election and 2022 federal election. For as long as he can remember, Michael has spoken out against unfairness and injustice, both for humans and animals alike.

He believes that how a society treats its most vulnerable members reflects back on the society itself; kindness breeds more kindness, whereas exploitation and abuse lead to worse outcomes for all concerned. He is passionate about bringing about positive change for animals through the political process using a rational, evidence-based approach.



Natalie Kopas

Victorian Advocacy Manager

Based in Wurundjeri Country, Nat's passion is animal advocacy and has been involved in the 'Ban Duck Shooting' campaign for 19 years. She's not giving up until it's banned!

Nat is the group leader for West Metro and became the State Advocacy Manager earlier this year. She continually aims to find new ways for us to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves.



Mike Feury

Paramedic & AJP Leader for
Albury/Wodonga

Mike Feury has been a member of the AJP since 2017 and vegan since 2014. He stood as a candidate for Benambra in the 2022 Victorian State Election and recently completed a 40 year career as a paramedic in Victoria.

Over the past 3 years we have been witnesses to a tumultuous time of social and political upheaval, rare in recent history. In the public discussions that ensued across mainstream and social media, many things we took for granted appeared less certain, and less predictable, and the quality of that discourse degenerated markedly.

This presentation seeks to restore some perspective by drawing upon some lessons from outside the sphere of animal advocacy, encouraging a disciplined but enjoyable approach to thinking that directly relate to our value of rationality.



Kel Watt

Managing Director,

[Watt Advocacy](#)

Kel worked on his first election campaign in 1993, and has just started work with candidates for 2024 elections. As an advisor, he has worked with state, federal and territory Ministers including Prime Ministers and Premiers across multiple portfolios. Following his appointment to the party's Head Office he worked as part of the election and strategy team, and as an Organiser responsible for regional and rural areas, and shared responsibility for key and marginal metropolitan electorates.

Kel established the 'Country Labor' brand that proved instrumental in NSW and Federal elections; and assisted with the development of in-house data collection software that worked harmoniously with electoral rolls to build profiles of voters and target persuasive campaign messages. He has worked in every state and territory in Australia, in the United Kingdom, in multiple US Presidential Elections (NOT Trump's!), and New Zealand. Following the 2013 Federal Election Kel established his own consulting firm to use the 'dark arts' of politics for good, including minor parties, independent candidates, charities and community groups.

His presentation at the 2023 National Conference will focus on how the AJP can move into its next stage of evolution from activism, to a political party, to a cross bench presence, into an influential policy and political force.



Silva Mirovics

[Being Excellence](#)

Silva is a writer and leadership coach, advancing purpose-driven leaders and conscious entrepreneurs to create exceptional outcomes. With a Bachelor of Health Science, and a research Masters under her belt, Silva has worked for three decades as a case worker, leader, and trainer in the community space. In her spare time she taught yoga and mindfulness practices.

Her driving goal is to help develop leaders who can enact positive change in animal, human and environmental rights. She is currently undergoing mentorship training with the Marshall Goldsmith leadership coaching academy. Silva recently started a coaching business "Being Excellence" to help conscious leaders become more powerful and effective.



Dr Adam Cardilini

[Campaign Clinic](#)

Adam developed a deep respect for all animals after working closely with them as an ecologist. Adam has been vegan since 2012 and advocates for compassion and care towards animals, people, and the planet through his work as an environmental scientist and outside work as an activist. His research focuses on animal and conservation social science investigating the relationship between perceptions of animals and concerns for the environment. He teaches science communication and science and society, often talking to students about the place of animals in our world. Adam also works on research related to climate change communications and perceptions of cellular agriculture.

Adam has been a member of the AJP on and off for several years. In 2022 he ran as a candidate for the Bellarine and in 2023 he joined the AJP Policy Working Group. Adam was a host of the radio show Freedom of Species from 2016-2023 and has participated in animal and environmental activism for over a decade.



Emma Håkansson

[Collective Fashion Justice](#)

Emma Håkansson is the founding director of Collective Fashion Justice, a not-for-profit dedicated to creating a total ethics fashion system which prioritises the wellbeing of people, our fellow animals and the planet, before profit. Her latest book, Total Ethics Fashion, explores the namesake term that she coined to guide the fashion industry forward.

Through Collective Fashion Justice, she has worked with the United Nations Environment Programme, Good On You, Fashion Revolution, the Center for Biological Diversity, World Animal Protection, and other leading organisations. Emma has consulted on passed progressive fashion legislation in New York City, spoken at the European Parliament, been invited to provide expertise in Parliament inquiries in Australia, and offered her expertise to global brands and fashion councils seeking to improve their ethics and sustainability.

Emma has lectured, spoken and run workshops around the world, in schools including London College of Fashion, Institut Français de la Mode, Swinburne University, Accademia Costume e Moda, GCNYC, and many more. She has reviewed and helped to transform the entire fashion course at LCI College, aligning with total ethics fashion values.



Kyle Behrend

[NFPs.AI](#)

Kyle Behrend is a seasoned not-for-profit professional with a deep-rooted passion for leveraging technology to amplify social impact. His international journey led him to Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary in Australia, where he garnered a rich tapestry of experiences that shaped his professional ethos. A multifaceted career has honed Kyle's skills in communication, teaching, problem-solving, and more, all of which underpin his commitment to empowering others to reach their fullest potential.

NFPs.AI is Kyle's response to the untapped potential of AI in the not-for-profit sector. With a vision to democratise access to AI for these organisations, Kyle is committed to providing the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate resource constraints, enhance efficiency, and elevate overall effectiveness. His goal is to create a future where not-for-profits confidently leverage AI technology to innovate and make a significant impact on the communities they serve. Kyle's unique blend of experience, dedication, and insightful understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by not-for-profits makes him an invaluable ally in the pursuit of AI mastery.



Paul Bevan

[Magic Valley](#)

Paul Bevan is the founder and CEO of Magic Valley - an Australian food company developing healthy and delicious cultivated meat products. He is on a mission to remove animals from the supply chain, he is dedicated to developing food technology solutions within the cellular agriculture industry.

Paul previously held senior roles at ASX100 listed companies, TABCORP, NAB & ANZ and has since founded multiple successful companies, including Melbourne's biggest mixed martial arts centre and an award-winning finance brokerage.

He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Monash University and a Graduate Certificate in Science from Swinburne University. In his spare time, Paul enjoys working out, watching Aussie Rules football and exploring Melbourne's amazing food scene.



Michelle Thomas

Shelter Director & President,

[Animalia Wildlife Shelter](#)

Michelle is a highly experienced Wildlife Rehabilitation Professional with over 37 years' experience in all aspects of wildlife rescue. She works as a trainer and assessor, in field spotter catcher, Subject Matter Expert for regional training authorities in SA, is often called upon to speak on behalf of wildlife and what it is facing on a daily basis.

Currently operates a volunteer wildlife rescue and rehabilitation shelter. Michelle is a passionate educator who enjoys working and teaching professionals, students and volunteers.



Michelle Jensz

Convenor,

[AJP Queensland](#)

Michelle moved to Queensland from NSW, and now calls Brisbane her home. She holds a Degree in Early Childhood Education and currently works as a Centre Manager for an Early Education service. Her experience with managing a centre has given her with a wealth of experience with interpreting laws and legislation related to the Early Childhood profession.

Michelle is also accustomed to dealing with the public and building networks in the community. As a passionate animal advocate, Michelle is heavily involved in the rescue and rehoming of companion animals. She enjoys volunteering for animal organisations that provide food to rescues animals, and outreach groups that support vulnerable communities to help feed their four-legged companions.



Katrina Love

Convenor,

[AJP Tasmania](#)

Katrina comes to AJP Tasmania as State Convenor, with a wealth of experience and knowledge, having been involved with the party since 2012, when she was first asked to run for the Senate in her capacity as Fremantle-based live export campaigner with Stop Live Exports.

She spent 9 years as WA State Convenor, served four years on the Board of Directors as National Vice President, and ran in three Senate elections as lead candidate (and one Senate re-election), two federal by-elections and in two WA State elections.

Originally from Sydney, Katrina spent 30 years in WA then came to Tassie for a 3-month break in Jan 2020. She loved the place so much, she upheaved her life in WA and moved here, settling in the Huon Valley where she lives with two adopted orphaned lambs, Buster and Lucille, and Avery – a rescued German Shepherd who had a terrible start to life, and abundant birdlife that she is frankly, a bit obsessed with!

Alex Kucharska

Treasurer,

[AJP Aust Capital Territory](#)

Miranda Smith

Convenor,

[AJP South Australia](#)



Mark Pearson

Convenor,

[AJP New South Wales](#)

Mark Pearson, the first Australian Member of Parliament to be elected on an animal justice platform, and was elected to the NSW Legislative Council in March 2015. Within a year of being elected to parliament, Mark introduced a bill seeking to protect farm animals from cruelty and called for mandatory surveillance cameras in all intensive livestock facilities and abattoirs. In 2018, Mark introduced his next bill, calling to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses in NSW – paving the way for work now being continued by MP Emma Hurst. In 2019, Mark introduced a bill to ban the practice of mulesing and mandate pain relief for other invasive procedures, and recently successfully sent this bill to a parliamentary inquiry.

Mark's positions in Parliament included Chair of the Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW and Deputy Chair of an inquiry into koala populations and habitat. While Mark's portfolio tends to focus on wild animals and the environment, such as his long-running battle to ban Australia's kangaroo trade, Mark also continues to campaign against other forms of animal exploitation, including horse racing and greyhound racing. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, Mark also turned his attention to the harm of the wildlife trade to not only animals, but human health.

Delegate Debates

30 minutes each

- Topic 1: "The colour and format of the Party's branding/materials should be changed to purple tones"
- Topic 2: "AJP can improve its vote by advocating for nuclear power"

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