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### October

- 4** World Animal Day  
**10** World Mental Health Day

## Take action

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Policy: AJP President  
president@animaljusticepart  
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Po Box 1010 Strawberry Hills  
NSW Australia 2012

# First AJP National Conference



**One hundred and forty AJP members from all states and territories attended our first national conference held over 4 and 5 July in Melbourne. The venue was the Abbotsford Convent in Abbotsford and was excellently organised by Victorian members Justine Curatolo and Fiona McRostie.**

Following opening addresses by National President Professor Steve Garlick, newly elected NSW parliamentary representative the Hon Mark Pearson MLC and a video presentation by the parliamentary leader of the Dutch Party for the Animals, Marianne Thieme; the conference got down to discussing a range of planning matters confronting future directions for the AJP. These included:

- The review of the organisation's structural arrangements
- The policy review process
- Election strategy
- Media and promotion
- Membership
- Fundraising and finance
- Victorian group committee elections

Day two of the Conference focussed on actioning many of these topics.

The Conference agreed that the next national conference would be in one year's time in NSW.



*AJP Vision*

*A planet on which animals are treated with respect, dignity, compassion and kindness, where they are able to flourish*

SPRING 2015



## MARK MAKES HIS MARK FOR THE ANIMALS IN NSW PARLIAMENT



### Companion Animal Breeding Committee

**Mark Pearson was the key animal rights representative on the government initiated Companion Animal Breeding Committee (CABC). This was a joint committee created in direct response to the puppy mill expose's which document systemic cruelty and neglect inflicting on companion animals, in particular dogs. Similar to the greyhound live baiting expose, puppy mills have long been known to exist but recent campaigning from animal advocacy groups and the AJP meant the government could not ignore it any longer.**

Hearings were held and Mark asked questions of all those selected to present evidence to the committee. Mark showed his extensive knowledge of the issue and raised many interesting connections between the puppy mill operations and the systemic failings of current NSW legislation and enforcement agents in relation to animal welfare.

Mark Pearson "I would have, of course, preferred that we obtained a phase out and ban on puppy 'farms', the selling of any animals in pet shops including fish and reptiles and a pro-active network to promote adopting dogs and cats off 'death row' at pounds.

This is not the end of the puppy factory exposes and campaign. I hope the next inquiry will be the one that does come closer to our ultimate aims including relegating these places to the scrap heap of history."





SPRING 2015



## BIOSECURITY BILL 2015

The Biosecurity Bill 2015 was re-introduced to the Legislative Council and as was the case with former Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, current Minister Niall Blair shouted that the bill would be used to target animal activists. Mark's office on behalf of the AJP presented a list of amendments which would serve to better protect not just activists but the public in general and society's democratic rights. Debate raged on in Parliament and Mark's speeches to the bill will go down in history as ensuring the voice of animals and activists were heard loud and clear.



Unfortunately, the Bill was passed in the Legislative Council, however some amendments were passed removing extensive power from public servants and ensuring this remained with the Primary Industries Minister.

Most importantly, we were able to extract from the Minister that where there is a prosecution under the proposed Act that the onus of proof is upon the prosecution to prove the offence, not the defendant to prove his / her innocence. This is very important.

Mark Pearson "I am certainly not saying this legislation does not pose a serious obstacle for activists but my view is that since the minister has made these various statements under our pressure for clarification, those words will be used in any legal proceedings where an activist has been charged.



### Mark Pearson Office

**Our office continues to learn and command the respect of the institution that is the NSW Parliament. We continue to chip away at our medium and long term goals whilst reacting well to the spontaneous nature of politics.**

Mark's website is in the initial development stages and set to come online in the coming months, in the meantime we are being as active as we can be via Mark's Facebook and Twitter profiles.

We continue to build our base of knowledge of the finer workings of government and building strong networks to work with in the future.

Mark has stated our office will be using the summer break to be active in the community and represent animals across the state, so if you have any events that people may think Mark could represent animals at please email his office.

Mark: [mark.pearson@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.pearson@parliament.nsw.gov.au)





SPRING 2015



## Hopping around Australia for the animals



### Victoria

**We have upcoming by-elections in the state seats of Polwarth and South West Coast (both in regional, western Victoria). We intend to run in both, and expect our candidates to be announced shortly.**

For the upcoming Federal election, our high level strategy has been endorsed by the National Committee and we are proceeding with the detailed planning. Our first batch of 10-20 candidates for some of the most important seats will soon be announced, with pre-selection of the remaining seats to proceed next year.

Our new fundraising manager, Ness Browne, and Stalls Manager, Chris de Jonge, have both done a great job of increasing the regularity and presentation of our events around town. We are on track to meet our fundraising goals for the next election, as well as these events providing plenty of opportunities to increase our membership base.

Speaking of which, our new membership system is now live and operational, with a pilot scheme running in one of our regions to try and achieve re-registration of our members electronically. Once we

have developed more experience with this system, the party will roll it out nationally.

### South Australia

**Our main focus for the rest of this year is to sign up enough members to register as a political party in SA. This will also be used to build polling booth teams for the next Federal Election, which will be sometime in 2016. With this in mind, we are about to start a large letter box drop to publicise the party and encourage people to join.**

On September 20 some of our intrepid members are walking/running the City-Bay event as AJP superheroes to raise money and flash the AJP logo (see photo). It's not too late to support the superheroes, with details on our Facebook page at [AnimalJusticePartySouthAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalJusticePartySouthAustralia).

We will be setting up stalls in the coming months at a number of events around the Adelaide CBD. These include:

**October 10:** Zombie Walk, Foodbank SA, Rymill Park

**November 7:** Vegan Festival, Victoria Square



Remember  
to renew  
your AJP  
membership

SPRING 2015



**November 15:** Walk for the Animals, Elder Park

## Australian Capital Territory

**Thanks to all those who attended our community meeting at Ainslie Arts Centre earlier this month.**

We had a good discussion, where you told us what you see as key animal issues, both locally and nationally.



The ACT Government has sought feedback on the Draft ACT Biosecurity Strategy, which outlines the management of exotic plants and animals. The AJP has made a submission, which will soon be made public. Our submission addresses the reality that where animals may be blamed for certain biosecurity issues, in many instances it is the case that humans and human activities are the root cause.

### Upcoming events in the ACT

The annual Living Green Festival at Albert Hall will be Sunday 4 October. We'll be there, hoping to sign up a few new members. Please stop by to say hello!

## Western Australia

WA Convenor for the AJP Katrina Love stood for election in the Canning By-election held on 19 September. We achieved a credible result with almost 1200 votes (1.4%) obtained for the AJP, sixth in a field of 12.

## New South Wales

**We are busy in the candidate and election volunteers selection process. There are still opportunities if you would like to be part of the AJP election team but please let us know a.s.a.p.**

We are working on the issues that will best promote the AJP at the next election at the regular meetings around the State. These will include live export, assisting wildlife and getting dogs and cats off death row. Talking of cats and dogs we will soon have AJP bandanas for sale at \$5, for companion animals and humans to sport.

We successfully reregistered in NSW. This is the most difficult State in Australia for registration and not all Parties were successful. It involved many hours of dedicated and at times tedious work so we are very grateful to all those who helped out.

Another massive task has been the additional Electoral Compliance requirements since our election success. For getting us through some of three mandatory hurdles we are particularly grateful to our NSW Treasurer Claire Hitchon.

If you are interested in serving on the NSW State Committee as Convener, Secretary, Treasurer or other please let me know by return email before 17 October 2015.

Mark Person made a welcome return again to the Sydney meeting in August and updated us on the first impressions of the first animal representative MP.

## Contribute to our newsletter

**If you have a pic, video, article or anything animal-related you would like included in the next issue, please email details to [Secretary@Animaljusticeparty.org](mailto:Secretary@Animaljusticeparty.org).**



[www.animaljusticeparty.org](http://www.animaljusticeparty.org)

