



SCIENCE
PARTY

A year of reflection, change and success
Leader's Report
James Jansson



Last year, I addressed the members at the AGM as the “Future Party”. Today I refer to you as the “Science Party”. This last year has been a year with soul searching, change and ultimately success in swinging our votes upward. Now we look to the future, with a number of upcoming elections. To be able to run in those elections, we need to firm up our membership base and grow our networks. We need each and every member to be committed to growing the party.

Now more than ever, we need our voting public to get involved in politics, to counter the hate and disrespect for science and evidence that has crept into our political discourse, both in Australia and overseas. Let’s elect reasonable, evidence focused, and visionary individuals to take back our governments from those who have hijacked politics in recent history. I need you to “join, volunteer and donate”. We keep saying this, because this is the only way that our world is going to change.

We have about 2.5 years until a federal election and a number of state elections along the way. I hope to have you along for the journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Jansson".

James Jansson
Science Party Leader

Contents

Contents	2
North Sydney By-Election	3
Changing name to the Science Party	4
Federal Election 2016	5
Luke James - Melbourne City Council Elections	6
Reports	6
Voting changes submissions	6
NSW Branch	7
NSW Branch Leader - Andrea Leong	7
Inaugural NSW Branch Meeting	7
NSW Branch Goal December 2016: 100 members	7
NSW Branch Goal December 2017 goal: 750 members	7

North Sydney By-Election

Last year Tom Gordon, Peter Xing and I attended a candidates forum for the North Sydney by-election instead of the Annual General Meeting on the 26th november. Only a few days later, on the 5th of December 2015, was the North Sydney by-election.

There were a number of challenges that faced us at that election:

- Short notice: Joe Hockey left abruptly
- Many parties were running
- The candidate (myself) was not a local, and I was quite busy on building my startup
- The federal by-election was being fought on a non-federal fearmongering campaign about council amalgamations which was irrelevant to our campaign and something we refused to participate in.

Despite that, we came together and campaigned hard. The result was ok, all things considered, but not all that exceptional. We beat Palmer United, but coming second last, and getting 0.67% of the vote was not the result we wanted.

The real successes of the campaign were the lessons we learnt. Campaigners on the ground got positive feedback when explained what we stood for: innovation, education and economic reform. People liked our message but our name was not communicating that message well.

It was decided, following that election, that the Future Party should explore new name options.

James Jansson



Investing in the future
Open and responsible government
Government that respects our rights and democracy

#FutureOfNorthSydney

Science and Technology Double research expenditure from \$9.2bn (0.56% of GDP) to \$18.4bn Legalise driverless car testing Create an Australian space agency	Economy Simplify regulations to stimulate the economy Remove the 50% capital gains tax discount that favours the rich End wasteful war spending Encourage density to improve house prices Replace stamp duty with land tax Remove superannuation tax loopholes Affordable childcare for all
Education \$6bn for public education Teach computer programming to all students Government supported extension school	Infrastructure Fund major rail development Bullet train from Sydney to Melbourne and Brisbane Create a new high density university city called 'Turing'
Rights End metadata laws and the surveillance state Marriage equality Decriminalise drug use Decriminalise abortions	Environment Carbon emissions trading scheme to increase renewable energy use Protect native forests
Good government Transparency Whistleblower protection Republic for Australia Secularism	

Authorised by Saritha Manickam, 49 Harrington Street, Enmore NSW 2042
Printed at Deloitte Print Centre Sydney Level 5, 225 George St, Sydney NSW 2000

Changing name to the Science Party

To change the name of the party, we did extensive testing of names, putting together a list of potential names, and testing them with our family and friends. After a long process, we settled on the name "Science Party".

On the 28th of January, the Future Party changed its name to the Science Party at a Special General Meeting. My announcement of the change read ""We believe that Science Party more clearly represents the philosophy and aims of the party. We believe that legislators should assess evidence, design and run legislative experiments, use mathematics and logic, and be willing to be proven wrong. These are qualities of scientific thinking, and what people want in parliamentarians."

Following the decision to change the name, a massive undertaking was made to redesign and rebrand the entire organisation. All elements of the party needed to be checked and updated. This involved a large number of people, but in particular I would like to thank Andrea Finno and Andrea Leong for coordinating the efforts.

The name was eventually accepted by the AEC on the 22nd of March.



Our "insert political party name here" logo while we had our new logo designed.

Federal Election 2016

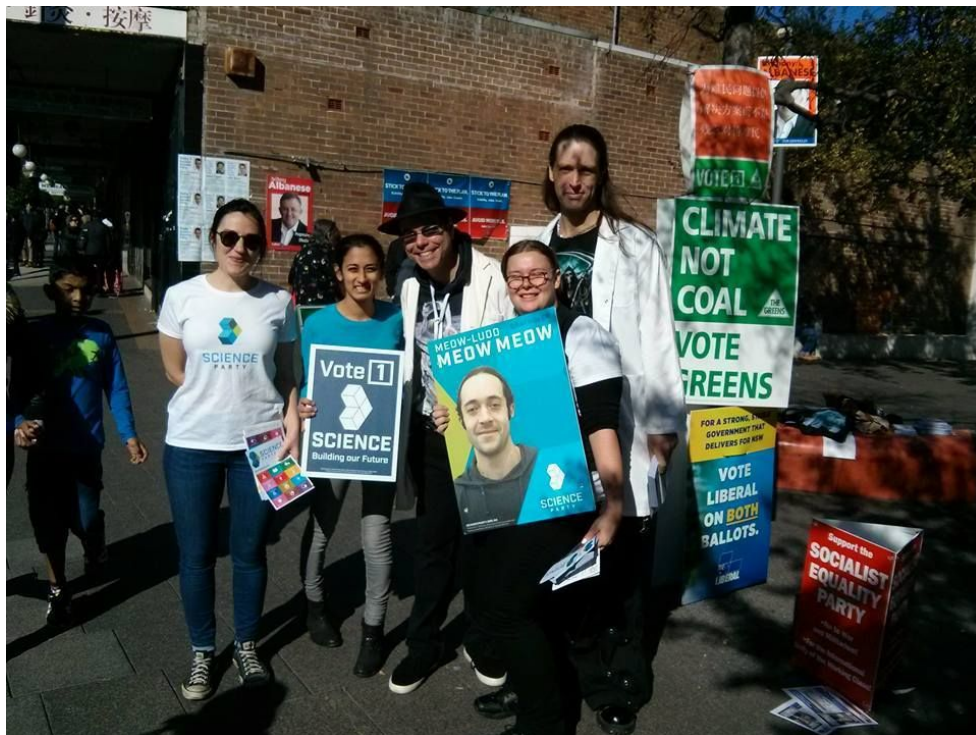
The federal election in 2016 was thrust upon us relatively quickly. In a cynical move, the Liberal Government changed the electoral system and quickly rushed to an election, scheduled for July 2nd 2016. This left us with just 15 weeks from acceptance of name to election day. Unfortunately, we were given very little time with that name prior to the election.

Despite this hurdle, the name was a huge success, with a huge amount of growth in social media support. The 2016 election was the most successful we have ever run. We formed a coalition with the Australian Cyclists Party who helped get us running in NSW and in Victoria.

A summary of our successes at the election:

- Senate candidates in 3 states (we ran in 1 state in 2013)
- 10 lower house candidates (we ran 2 in 2013)
- Quadrupling of our senate vote in comparison to 2013
- Strong results in all seats in the lower house, with many seats polling over 2%.

This shows that the massive amount of work that the candidates put into the campaign, and the value of the Science Party name in communicating what we stand for. With much more time leading into the next election, the Science Party should be more successful than ever.



Luke James - Melbourne City Council Elections

Luke James took on the responsibility of running as an independent candidate in the Melbourne City Council elections. Luke didn't win, but the experience was a good trial by fire that had lessons for the upcoming NSW council elections if we choose to participate in them.

Reports

The Science Party continues its fine tradition of not just campaigning in elections, but also participating intelligently in the national discussion by making submissions to the parliament.

[Submission to the Inquiry into the 2016 Census](#) September 21, 2016

[Submission to the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap Capability Issues Paper](#) September 09, 2016

[Submission regarding Establishment of a National Integrity Commission](#) April 20, 2016

[Research and Development Tax Incentive](#), October 28, 2016

Voting changes submissions

I made a personal submission, modelling the outcome of an election to demonstrate vote splitting. I also made a submission on behalf of the Alliance for Progress expressing dismay at the decision to make voting below the line require the voter to number all boxes and voting above the line only vote 1. In the end, following lobbying, amendments were made that resulted in a system that was far better than the one proposed by the Liberals and Greens at the time:

- It was proposed that optional preferential voting only be allowed in above the line voting. This was changed to optional preferential voting above and below the line
- It was proposed that optional preferential above the line votes would be considered to be formal if a single '1' was placed above the line, potentially wasting votes. This proposal was amended to make the vote technically informal, but the AEC was instructed to tell voters to give at least 6 votes above the line.
- It was proposed that minimum membership numbers be raised to 1,500. This proposal was scrapped and minimum membership numbers stayed at 500.

The submissions can be found [here](#).

NSW Branch

We have elected to create a formal NSW branch to fight the state election under the banner of the “Science Party”. We have run a state election campaign previously, however we did so as an unnamed group.

We need 750 members to not just join the party, but to sign a form indicating that they are a member of the party. This is a substantial logistical tasks. This requires recruitment of hundreds of members in NSW, and a mailout that uses physical mail and record keeping.

NSW Branch Leader - Andrea Leong

To ensure that the NSW branch gets the proper attention it deserves, the NSW branch needs leadership that is responsible, level headed, committed and active. As such, the Science Party Executive has decided to appoint Andrea Leong as the Leader of the NSW Branch. Andrea exhibits the qualities that I think strong and responsible leadership should aspire to. She will be building the NSW branch and will be responsible for its organisation.

Inaugural NSW Branch Meeting

The NSW inaugural branch meeting will be held at 6:30 on the 5th of December 2016 at Humanist House in Sydney. Humanist House, 10 Shepherd St, Chippendale NSW 2008 ([map](#)) RSVP via the Facebook [event](#) or our Meetup [event](#).

NSW Branch Goal December 2016: 100 members

We are aiming to achieve 100 members with signed NSW forms by the end of the year. This will make us a registered political party for the purposes of council elections. Doing so will prepare us for any outstanding council elections after the September 2017 council elections.

NSW Branch Goal December 2017 goal: 750 members

The end goal is to achieve 750 members to be eligible to be registered as a political party in the NSW elections. We must do this by December 2017 to be registered in time for the 2019 election in NSW.