

Imagine
AN IDEAL WORLD

YOUTH ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

by



young voices for animals



OFFICIAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

We acknowledge that yARC takes place on
the land of the Boonwurrung and
Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the
Kulin Nation, and pay respect to their
Elders past, present and future.



Welcome to yARC 2018, Australia's first ever Youth Animal Rights Conference!

We're so excited to have you join us at this incredible day full of amazing presentations, delicious food and inspiring people. Thank you for coming.

This program will guide you as to how the event will run and who will be speaking throughout the day. If you have any questions, please speak to one of our friendly volunteers.

At YVA, we place massive importance on accessibility and making sure everyone has a comfortable, enjoyable experience at our events. If you'd like more information about accessibility at yARC, or have any other inquiries beyond what's in this guide, please ask one of our volunteers and we'll do everything we can to help you out.

We hope you have an incredible day!

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the animal protection institute

SCHEDULE YOUTH ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2018

Time	Red/Orange Room	Green Room	Purple Room
9:30	Registration		
10:00	Introduction		
10:30	Harley McDonald-Eckersall & Dilan Fernando YOUNG VOICES FOR ANIMALS Workshop: Why are we here?		
11:30	Break		
11:45		Kyle Behrend EDGAR'S MISSION Who are you? Developing your personal brand	Nyah Shahab & Freya Boltman YOUTH FOR REFUGEES Youth in activism
12:30		Oliver Davenport ANIMAL LIBERATION YOUTH Understanding animal liberation from every angle	Ruwani Ekanayake & Brodie Hearnden COMPASSIONATE LIVING VEGAN MARKETS Non-confrontational activism
1:15	Lunch Musical performance by Chloe Horler		
2:00	Ash Nayate NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST Coping with stress, frustration, burnout and sadness as an animal rights activist	Svetlana Colbert Veganism through a radical lens	
2:45	Chris Delforce AUSSIE FARMS Eyewitness: bringing the truth to light	Sarah Margo VOICELESS Chimps, elephants and dolphins - are they property or people?	
3:30	Break		
3:45	Jaysherrie Terráqueos, Kristin Leigh & Haans Siver; moderated by Kianna Hope Panel: Women in activism		
4:15	Head Shaving for Animals by Nyah Shahab		
4:45	Wrap-up. Please vacate building by 5pm.		

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM RED/ORANGE ROOM

Workshop: Why are we here?



Harley
McDonald-Eckersall



Dilan
Fernando

YOUNG VOICES FOR ANIMALS

About Young Voices for Animals (YVA)

Young Young Voices for Animals or YVA (pronounced ee-vah) began in early 2017 with a vision of educating and empowering the next generation of young people working towards animal liberation. Proudly run for youth, by youth, we strive to build strong, supportive and positive communities of young animal advocates. We seek to create a culture where innovation, passion and hope become the pillars that raise the animal rights movement to new heights, with young people at the forefront standing up for their future.

Workshop Summary

In this workshop, facilitators from Young Voices for Animals will take you through an introduction to what it means to truly think and plan for a better world. Exploring how the animal rights movements has grown from humble beginnings to the worldwide explosion it is today, this workshop will encourage you to think big and begin to establish your own interpretation of how we can work towards a better future. YVA invites you to come in with an open mind and leave ready to tackle the rest of the day!

11:45AM - 12:30PM GREEN ROOM

Who are you? Developing your personal brand



Kyle Behrend

EDGAR'S MISSION

Kyle is an experienced Communications, Fundraising and Operations Manager with a history of working in the non-profit industry, including his current role as operations manager at Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary where he has worked for 8 years.

His passion is making the world a kinder place as well as passing on his knowledge through workshops and conferences. He is currently furthering his education with a Master of Business Administration (Exec) from RMIT.

Presentation Summary

Why? A three-letter word that is so simple yet can be so hard to answer. It has taken me seven years to answer this question... well to be honest it took a few weeks; the problem is I never asked. I now know my why... do you know yours?

In this workshop we will be exploring **you**, starting to dig into your why and exploring your self, and using marketing concepts to help develop your personal brand profile.

Seth Godin defines a brand as "the set of expectations, memories, stories and relationships that, taken together, account for a consumer's decision to choose one product or service over another." A personal brand is no different – it is what makes us unique, what differentiates us from the crowd, and what makes us desirable for friendships, relationships and employment. I will show how marketing tools can be applied to ourselves in helping uncover our purpose, values, brand essence, brand personality, target audience and value proposition.

11:45AM - 12:30PM PURPLE ROOM

Youth in Activism



Nyah Shahab



Freya Boltman

MELBOURNE YOUTH FOR REFUGEES

Nyah is a 16 year old vegan, animal and human rights activist. She first became involved in grassroots activism in 2017 and has since been heavily outspoken against the atrocities that happen under Australian law. After discovering a lack of young people in the activism community, Nyah founded Melbourne Youth for Refugees, working hard to grow the organisation and learning how to be a respectable young activist.

At 17, **Freya** is passionate about activism, particularly refugee activism. After school, Freya plans to study music and perhaps journalism or global politics. She is passionate about living ethically, having grown up in a socially aware, environmentally conscious family. After going vegetarian at just 8 years old, Freya recently chose to transition to veganism!

Presentation Summary

This presentation will tackle how to be an effective, young activist, exploring both the difficulties and benefits of being heavily involved in activism at a young age and breaking down the basics of activism. Coming from two young, passionate activists who have faced adversity in communities for being so political at a young age, Freya and Nyah know and understand how to overcome this and hope to spread this information and passion. This presentation will acknowledge the challenges involved with breaking into certain spaces as a young person and provide a new perspective for those wanting to make a difference in our world.

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM GREEN ROOM

Understanding animal liberation from every angle



Oliver Davenport

ANIMAL LIBERATION YOUTH

Oli is 17 years old and, in addition to being a passionate animal rights activist, is studying year 12. After experiencing what it was like to work on a cattle and sheep station and horse stud in NSW, Oli decided to radically change his path, becoming an animal rights activist in late 2016.

With a passion for truth telling, Oli is now pursuing photojournalism with Bear Witness Australia as well as volunteering for Animal Liberation Victoria and the Save Movement. Oli is also a founder of Animal Liberation Youth.

Presentation Summary

Being an animal rights activist, or even vegan comes with challenges. When we first become vegan or an activist, it is hard to see how a farmer can live with themselves while harming animals for a living. I'll be discussing the different viewpoints of the animal rights movement, the view from the farmers, the consumers/public, and the animal rights activists. And given these viewpoints, how we can progress as a movement to come to complete animal liberation.

12:30PM - 1:15PM PURPLE ROOM

Non-confrontational activism



Ruwani Ekanayake-Jansen



Brodie Hearnden

RU'S VEGGIE KITCHEN, BRODIE BOTANICAL & COMPASSIONATE VEGAN LIVING MARKETS

Ruwani is the founder of Ru's Veggie Kitchen and Compassionate Living Vegan Markets (CLVM). Ruwani has always been an ardent animal lover, leading her to question how she could claim to love animals while still consuming them. Ruwani has been vegan for 3+ years now but her journey to veganism started 10 years ago after first making eye contact with a cow being transported in a truck on a busy highway. Ruwani works for a not-for-profit organization during weekdays and devotes her free time to non-confrontational activism through Ru's Veggie Kitchen and the CLVM.

Brodie is the owner of Brodie Botanical: Herbal Medicine. Brodie's main loves are herbs, nature and animals and it gives her great pleasure to be able to combine these passions at the CLVM. For Brodie, animal advocacy began at a young age of 13, sitting on her high school basketball court reading an article on animal welfare. An empathic switch was flicked and so began her vegan journey to the then supermarket aisle of 1 soy milk, a questionable cheese, and the almighty nutmeat.

Presentation Summary

Ruwani and Brodie will speak about their journey to begin and develop their individual businesses and the Compassionate Living Vegan Markets. Both women are passionate about providing localized and economically priced vegan events in Melbourne and beyond. The CLVM delivers vegan markets on a seasonal basis at various locations in Melbourne's suburbia and gives many emerging vegan micro-businesses a chance to successfully launch their products. Both these women are passionate about supporting and inspiring vegan women and vegan businesses, and their experience means that they offer a wealth of knowledge for any aspiring small business owners!

Mind running out of fuel?

Join us for a
delicious vegan
lunch
by



FOOD * CULTURE * COMMUNITY

With an ethos of inclusivity and a commitment to ensuring everyone gets a place at the table, we can't think of a better group to fuel the world of tomorrow.

**Lunch is available for all those who purchased
either Workshop Access, Carer
or Lunch tickets.**

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM RED/ORANGE ROOM

LIVE MUSIC

Chloe Horler



Chloe is a 20 year old singer/songwriter

who writes songs that are sometimes fun, sometimes serious, but always from the heart. A self described “sensitive soul in a harsh world,” Chloe wants to be a voice for those who don’t feel strong enough to speak up, and for those who simply cannot speak up because they aren’t human.

Chloe believes that with love and compassion we can all come together and overcome anything. She wants people to connect to her songs and use them as encouragement to fight through all the hassles of reality and to know they are never alone.

Listen to Chloe’s music at:

<https://soundcloud.com/chloe-horler>

Coping with stress, frustration, burnout and sadness when you're an animal rights activist



Ash Nayate

Ash is a vegan neuropsychologist, writer, speaker, and animal activist. She went from meat-eater to vegan overnight in 2008, after watching the documentary 'Earthlings'. Ash became vegan for ethical reasons, and then became immersed in the mental health benefits of a vegan lifestyle.

Ash is a strong advocate for positive mental health, particularly amongst vegans, activists, and young people. In addition to animal rights, Ash is also an advocate for youth rights, and she has been working with young people and families for over a decade. She currently works in private practice as well as major hospitals around Melbourne. In 2018, Ash released her first book on mental health for activists, titled "Staying Positive in a F*cked Up World".

Presentation Summary

Ash will guide us through the enormous benefits that being an animal activist can have on our mental health, and the associated risk of becoming overwhelmed by feelings of stress, anger, and sadness, especially when faced with animal cruelty or dealing with people who don't share our views. Ash will explain the importance of coping in a healthy way by understanding the hidden messages behind our feelings, and how we can re-wire our brain to deal with these feelings more positively. In her presentation, Ash will share the real reasons behind our stress, sadness, and anger, along with simple changes we can make to improve our wellbeing and make us even more effective activists.

Veganism through a radical lens



Svetlana Colbert

Svetlana is a Sydney based animal rights activist who began her vegan journey by accidentally initiating an animal rights protest whilst being vegetarian. As a result, Svetlana became vegan soon after. Svetlana started attending small demonstrations in Sydney in 2015, later joining large outreach and direct action groups and eventually becoming involved in organising street demonstrations.

Presentations, podcasts and writing are currently Svetlana's favourite medium of activism and she enjoys engaging with a variety of audiences to challenge people's perception of the world, particularly when it comes to non human animals. Svetlana hopes to inspire people to reflect on the power of their own empathy and compassion towards all earthlings and use it as a force of change.

Presentation Summary

In this presentation, Svetlana will provide an introduction to veganism as a radical movement of inclusivity. In this presentation, Svetlana will explore progressive concepts of veganism as more than a consumer based lifestyle, taking listeners through the ropes of why veganism is political and why our activism must extend beyond our shopping lists and into the ways in which we interact with and view our fellow earthlings.

This presentation will address the importance of critique and the power of inclusive communication, outlining how our choice of delivery of the vegan message can be used as a form of practical compassion in effective advocacy. Finally, Svetlana will discuss how being radically kind to ourselves and to our fellow humans can provide a great benefit to non human animals and how we can apply this philosophy to our daily lives to help create a better world for all!

2:45PM - 3:30PM RED/ORANGE ROOM

Eyewitness: Bringing the truth to light



Chris Delforce

AUSSIE FARMS

Chris Delforce is the founding director of animal rights organisation Aussie Farms, and for the last 7 years has been investigating and documenting farms, slaughterhouses and other animal exploitation industries across Australia.

In 2014 Chris and team released *Lucent*, a documentary focused on industry-standard pig farming, which led to his home being raided by police and subsequent charges laid for publication of photos and footage, in Australia's first-ever ag-gag case. The follow-up film, *Dominion*, examines the numerous ways animals are used and abused by humans, challenging the morality and validity of our dominion over the animal kingdom.

Presentation Summary

In his presentation, Chris will be covering the topic of documenting animal industries to bring the truth to light, using his own personal experiences as a documentary filmmaker to speak about this importance of this kind of activism and where it sits within the broader animal rights movement. Drawing on his own practice, Chris will deliver a session packed with advice and insights which will be invaluable to anyone with an interest in investigative activism.

2:45PM - 3:30PM GREEN ROOM

“Chimps, elephants and dolphins - are they property or people?”



Sarah Margo

VOICELESS: THE ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE

Sarah has been passionate about animal protection since she was very young. During school, she volunteered for charities that cared about animals and the environment. At university, Sarah was determined to use her law degree to protect animals and became involved with groups like the NSW Young Lawyers' Animal Law Committee.

Now Sarah is an animal protection lawyer working at Voiceless, the animal protection institute, which works to promote respect and compassion for all animals by encouraging critical-thinking on animal protection issues and growing the field of animal law.

Presentation Summary

What's the difference between your phone and a chimp? Under the law, not as much as you might think. Both can be human property, meaning that they have no rights of their own. This presentation will explore the concepts of property and personhood under the law, to see what it all means for nonhuman animals.

We'll talk about the case of Tommy the chimp, who lives in a caravan park in the USA. His lawyers are trying to set him free, so he can live out the rest of his days in an animal sanctuary. Come and learn about why these lawyers are trying to alter the legal status of chimps and other nonhuman animals like Tommy, and decide for yourself whether nonhuman animals should be property or legal persons.

Panel: Women in Activism

This panel showcases and celebrates some of the countless incredible women who are driving the movement for animal liberation in Melbourne and beyond.



Jaysherrie
Terráqueos

Jaysherrie began her activism journey eight years ago as an Onshore Volunteer with Sea Shepherd. Four years later, Jaysherrie went on to volunteer with Animal Liberation Victoria. While still involved with ALV, Jaysherrie came to co-organise for the Direct Action Everywhere Melbourne chapter for a short time. Now Team Leader for Melbourne Goat Save, Jaysherrie works alongside a variety of activist groups, including the other Save groups in Melbourne, and collaborates with them to support the important work they all do.



Kristin Leigh

Kristin is an animal liberation activist dedicated to grassroots advocacy, non-violent direct action and politics. She is Campaign Director for Melbourne Against Horse-Drawn Carriages - the movement responsible for the recent removal of carriage street-trade permits - has run twice as a candidate for the Animal Justice Party, and works as volunteer coordinator for the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses. Kristin has coordinated many direct actions including rescues, truck blockades and slaughterhouse lockdowns. She is currently building her own liberation organisation, Vegan Rising.



Haans Siver

Haans' path unfolded in 2009 when she discovered the slaughter of dolphins in Taiji. A nightclub owner at the time, Haans threw herself into months of research, eventually realising the sheer scale of the problems animals faced. From there, she became a private investigator and animal rights activist. Haans has been vegan for 8 years and her only regret is not doing it sooner! Haans is now Ship Manager/Chief Mate on the MV Ocean Warrior with Sea Shepherd, where she takes pride in fighting for what's right and hopes to leave this planet a little nicer for future generations.

SHAVE FOR ANIMALS

Nyah Shahab



At YVA we love to celebrate young advocates. That's why we're so excited to **help Nyah Shahab raise awareness and funds for Animals Australia.**

Settle in to watch Nyah shave her head to support Animals Australia, an organisation which works tirelessly to bring greater awareness to the treatment of other animals.

Support Nyah by donating to her campaign at:

<https://fundraise.animalsaustralia.org/shaveforanimals>

We'll be wrapping up at 4:45pm.
Please vacate the building by 5pm.

Thank you to the following organisations
who presented at this year's conference.



Thank you to our sponsors.



Conference Team

Harley McDonald-Eckersall • Kianna Hope
Jemma McPherson • Emmy Montgomery
Dilan Fernando • Nha Phuong Dang

Volunteers

Thomas Benning • Zoe Borbiro • Ella Frost
Emily Huang • Neth Kudagama
Shea McDonald-Eckersall • Nikki Ryan
Georgia Trotter • Trevor Weeden



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Disclaimer: The views and opinions raised in this conference are those of the speakers themselves and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Young Voices for Animals or any associated organisations. Attendees should be aware that some of the content presented may be distressing. Attendees are advised to exercise their own discretion as to which presentations they attend, and the organisers and associated organisations take no responsibility for emotional distress. We have asked speakers to warn of graphic images and potentially distressing content, but no responsibility is taken for the material conveyed during presentations by the organisers or associated organisations of the Youth Animal Rights Conference.