



Lawyers for Animals Newsletter: March

Events

LFA President speaks in Wodonga

Acting on a long-standing invitation from Hume-Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS), on Monday 24th March, Nichola visited Wodonga to deliver a public presentation on 'Animals and the Law', followed by a friendly Q&A. The friendly attendees were predominantly dog rescuers with strong practical knowledge, so a lively discussion ensued on animal rights philosophy and dog laws. Nichola would like to thank Karen Bowley and Yanina Wojcik of HRCLS for organising this event, which gave LFA the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with regional animal carers, whose work is admirable. It also allowed HRCLS to showcase their willingness to advise on animal law matters.

Volunteers Picnic

Our first Volunteers Picnic was a great way for members to meet other volunteers and chat about some of the issues that have come up at the Animal Law Clinic.

Apart from helping human clients and their animals, the Clinic is also a useful means of gathering data about the types of recurring legal issues arising out of certain laws relating to animals in Victoria.

The culinary highlights of the picnic were vegan chocolate scrolls and a delicious vegan red velvet cake.

Thank you to all those volunteers and Committee members who attended.



2014 Voiceless Animal Law Lecture Series – 15 and 16 May

The 2014 Animal Law Lecture Series will explore the rise of 'ag-gag' laws which criminalise many of the methods used by animal advocates to uncover incidents of cruelty. Two lectures are taking place in Victoria:

First lecture

- When: Thursday 15 May 2014, 6:00 pm
- Where: University of Melbourne

Second lecture

- When: Friday 16 May 2014, 1:00 pm
- Where: King & Wood Mallesons (CBD)

Registration for the events is through the Voiceless website.

Other developments

ICJ hands down whaling decision

On 31 March 2014, the UN International Court of Justice handed down its decision in the Japanese whaling case in favour of Australia, finding that Japan's whaling program was not designed and carried out for scientific purposes, and ruling that Japan must revoke current whaling permits and refrain from issuing further permits.

The decision is a true victory for the anti-whaling movement and the animal rights movement generally. The next edition of our newsletter will look at the decision in more detail.

Call for submissions: proposed Australian animal welfare standards and guidelines for exhibited animals

The Government is calling for submissions on proposed standards for the care and management of animals kept for exhibition purposes at facilities such as zoos, fauna parks, wildlife parks, aquariums and museums with live animal exhibits.

The Government is seeking views from interested parties about how well the proposed standards and guidelines will ensure the welfare and security of exhibited animals. The public consultation period is open until **22 May 2014**.

We are looking for **volunteers** to assist with drafting submissions on these standards and guidelines. If you are interested in being involved, please email enquiries@lawyersforanimals.org.au.

Lawyers for Animals



REG NO A0047100G
ABN 74 557 651 569