



AUSTRALIAN YOUTH
CLIMATE COALITION



Local groups





A woman with short, reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored top, is smiling and petting the head of a large, grey, shaggy stuffed elephant. The elephant is holding a white banner with blue text. The background consists of horizontal white slats, possibly from a window blind or a stage set.

**THE ELEPHANT IS IN
ROOM: REDUCE POLLUTION**
THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION



INTERNATIONAL PRESS CLUB

CLIMA

Australian PM stalked by elephant

AAP

Climate policies scrutinised

mid the Julia Gillard elephant's accession to the climate change summit have a poll of 17,000 voters

Share Elephants car licence-31924

Prime Minister

OUT-TIP OFF CRIKEY!

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FEDERAL ELECTION 2010 HUNG PARLIAMENT BARACK OBAMA

Friday, 18 August 2010 / 27 comments

Climate change: one-on-one with the elephant in the room

By Sandell, general manager of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition

You see an elephant following Gillard and Abbott around the sign trail last week? No, I'm not talking about Mark Latham. I'm talking about the Climate Elephant. Over the past 10 days, where Julia and Tony have turned; the Climate Elephant was there. My message is simple: you can't ignore the elephant in the room — the lack of action on climate change.

Gillard hugs 'elephant in the room'

21 August 2010 07:01:48 PM Source: SBS staff and agencies

Julia Gillard completed her campaign by acknowledging that elephant in the room, taking time to hug a climate change activist in an



Julia Gillard with Elle the Climate Elephant as elephant outside

Friday, 3 September 2010

crikey

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Group members with their "Climate Elephant" at the railway station

CAMPAIGN: Climate-change advocates converged on town last week to push political parties to step up their environmental policies ahead of this weekend's Federal Election.

Members of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and their fancy-dressed "Climate Elephant", took to Adelaide Railway Station to debate the major parties' climate policies. Australian Youth Climate Coalition SA co-director Joel Dignam says the presence of the elephant at last week's protest aimed to highlight how climate change is "the elephant in the room".

"It's a major issue for young people particularly. They make up 20 per cent of the voting population but neither party will consider it," he says.



Climate top of agenda

Teen tackles big issues

By BRETT CLARKE

FROM nature enthusiast to climate change activist, Daniel Spencer is doing his best to help create an environmentally friendly Australia.

Daniel, 18, is following his passion and helping to organise *Power Shift*, a youth climate summit to be held in Adelaide this week.

The Craigburn Farm resident is a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, the group responsible for *Power Shift* and also the country's largest youth-run organisation.

Daniel's enthusiasm for tackling climate change stems from a love of nature that came with growing up in the Riverland.

"My passion started from an appreciation for natural environments," he says.

"I grew up in the Riverland, on the Murray, so whenever I go home I see the difference in water levels."

"Now I live in Craigburn Farm and although it's healthy, there's a lot of land being cleared."



YOUTH SUMMIT: Craigburn Farm teen Daniel Spencer.

"I grew up in the Riverland, on the Murray whenever I go home I see the difference in water levels. Now I live in Craigburn Farm and there's a lot of land being cleared."

aims to educate young people on how they can play a role in fighting climate change. "The aim is to educate and empower young people so that they have the skills to start up their own local environment groups."

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Inaction will cost us our future

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AMANDA MCKENZIE



Our political leaders would have you believe that the last days of the federal election campaign are all



Trunk call for action

THE elephants got out of the room and herded in the City Square for a flash mob dance yesterday. Because city workers saw a familiar-looking freestyling elephant lead a herd of 25 elephant-masked environmentalists through some moves on the corner of Swanston and Collins streets the city.

The elephant of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition has become a minor celebrity on the campaign trail for its cameo appearances bobbing up in the background of Julia Gillard's youth trunk call.

YOUTH TRUNK CALL MOVING ON from the professional apparatuses' well-resourced campaigns to a more DIY effort. The Australian Youth Climate Coalition posted a YouTube video of a day in the life of its Climate Change Elephant that shows Elle making a cup of tea, riding his/her bike, being man-handled by security staff and chasing a motorcade. In a press release, the AYCC's national director, Amanda McKenzie, said volunteers "have been on call 24 hours a day, tracking the leaders' movements on blogs, Twitter and Facebook, cross-crossing Australia, sweet-talking security guards, calling just about every costume shop in the country, and gaining national media".

JACQUELINE MALEY and MARK DAVIS

is of the ie City Square to: NICOLE CLEARY

Of 100 teenage things to do, voting comes in at 100

Erik Jensen

IT ALL ended in the winter of 2003. Thousands of teenagers wandered school to protest against Australia's involvement in the Iraq war. There was gun-sound, police intervention. And then, nothing.



Birth of cynicism... Iraq war protests in 2003. Photo: Ianca Dain

According to unpublished research by the Australian Electoral Commission's speaking Youth Electoral Study built from hundreds of interviews carried out over six years, this was the moment a generation's political confidence died.

"They thought being out there, being conspicuous and showing numbers, was enough to change government attitudes. And it wasn't," one of the study's authors, Murray Prior, said. "There was a loss of disillusionment about that."

University of Sydney, said young people were less engaged in politics now than they were 30 years ago. The fall-off began in the 1990s, he said, and was caused in part by critical cynicism taught in the English syllabus and through e-mail and technology. If that, he has been debunked in

year 12, the remaining aim, there is little chance of becoming a communal unit of becoming. "In the '90s... there was a falling away of youth involvement, regarding our involvement in the Iraq war," he said. "In the 18s you get down to 80 per cent or something. It gets a bit hidden in Australia because of compulsory voting."

The Youth Electoral Study found voting to be the least important rite of passage for people under 25. Less exciting than being able to drink legally. Less exciting, even, than the high school formal. "One of the things," an 18-year-old girl from Tasmania told the study, "having a car."

According to the research, 48.2 per cent of boys would vote if there was compulsory voting. In girls, the figure was 50.9 per cent. But the group remains an important and unpredictable bloc.

Last week, the full bench of the High Court overruled electoral reforms enacted in the final years of the Howard government — reforms that barred from the polls about 100,000 people at the last election, mainly the young.

Another challenge was won yesterday to recognise online enrolment. There will be more young people voting at this election than voted in 2007.

Most importantly for parties, almost all are voting voters. An Electoral Media poll conducted this week for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation found 67 per cent of young people were still considering whom to vote for a week from the election.

But they were firm in their support for action on climate change and economic management — 43 per cent put the former in their top three issues; 55 per cent the latter.

Green, Nation election specials, the Charter doing some up for Latham with 'The Cashbar'! Twitter feeds running along the bottom of the Q&A screen.

"People in their 20s are perhaps a bit of a young people voting and they pick up on the people who are not engaged in our cases," said Shannon Brown, 18, who brought last week's High Court challenge with another GetUp! member. The ABC had had success with youth audiences at this election;



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NEED ANOTHER REASON TO COME TO POWER SHIFT?

HERE ARE **JUST SOME** OF THE SPEAKERS, PANELS AND MASTERCLASSES.
FULL PROGRAM COMING SOON!

DAY 1

Saturday 13th July

Includes masterclasses, panels and an evening social event at Monash University.



BILL MCKIBBEN
COFOUNDER 350.ORG

Australia's place in a global revolution



TIM FLANNERY
CLIMATE COMMISSION

Climate change in Australia today



NAYUKA GORRIE
YOUNG INDIGENOUS LEADER

A global movement of Indigenous peoples

DAY 2

Sunday 14th July

Includes election-planning sessions, chill-out spaces, performance art and an evening comedy debate hosted by Claire Hooper!



DEEPA GUPTA
INDIAN YOUTH NETWORK

A global movement perspective, with Q&A



SAM MCLEAN
DIRECTOR OF GETUP

A national election strategy for all issues



AMANDA MCKENZIE
CLIMATE COMMISSION

Global climate policies

DAY 3

Monday 15th July

Includes Political Q&A with key political leaders, taking action in the heart of Melbourne and Pacific Island performance group Tama Tatau.



LUCY LAWLESS
ACTRESS

Why I climbed an Arctic oil rig



JULIAN BURNSIDE
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

Refugees and the human face of Climate Change



JAMES HANSEN
NASA

From scientist to activist. The global climate challenge

PANELS & MASTERCLASSES

Panels & Masterclasses delivered by Australia's most renowned scientists, economists, researchers, campaigners, organisers and some of the most inspiring people you'll ever meet.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- Gender and climate change
- Indigenous and Islander voices on climate
- Faith in a changing world
- Health and social justice

BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS

- Lessons from the coal and gas movement
- Solar thermal for Port Augusta
- Queensland coal campaigning
- Understanding carbon finance and fossil fuel divestment

DEEPER ACTIVISM

- History of social movements
- Frontline community organising
- Bidder 70 documentary about Tim DeChristopher and Q&A with filmmaker Beth Gage
- The role of civil disobedience in creating change

COMMUNICATION:

- Effective campaign messaging
- Conversations with friends this election
- Responding to climate myths
- Psychology and behavioural change

ESSENTIALS

- Understanding the science of climate change
- What does our energy future look like?
- Climate policy in Australia
- History of social movements

THIS ELECTION

- Count Me In! youth enrollment this election
- Key issues this election
- Organising skills from the union movement
- Learnings from the 2010 election campaign

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