

Minding Animals Bulletin 53



Minding Animals Conference (MAC5) July, 2024

After an hiatus of six years, Minding Animals will return in July, 2024. The Minding Animals Conference slated for July, 2021, had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, so we are now thrilled to offer Minding Animals Conference 5, tentatively scheduled to be held 11-17 July, 2024.

Minding Animals Conference (MAC5) will be brought to you by:

- Minding Animals International Incorporated (MAI),
- Minding Animals Australia (MAA), and
- Centre for Compassionate Conservation (CfCC) in the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) (our hosts).

The conference will also partner with other organisations. Announcements regarding these will be given over the coming months.

This collaborative inclusive international conference builds on over a decade of highly successful animal studies conferences organised by MAI. As such, this event will incorporate the 5th Minding Animal Conference and the 1st Society for Compassionate Conservation Conference and others.

As for previous Minding Animals Conferences, this conference will also feature a distinct Critical Animal Studies session on the first day.

The conference will be held in **Sydney**, from **11 to 17 July, 2024** (tentative schedule at a central Sydney city venue yet to be confirmed). Until the conference website is up and running and if you need to make contact about the conference, please email: mac5@mindinganimals.com

Again, we wish all our members and supporters the very best of health. Stay safe and healthy!

The names MAC, MAC5, Minding Animals Conference, MA, MAI, Minding Animals International, MAA, Minding Animals Australia, organisational logos and all content on Minding Animals Websites and Minding Animals Bulletins are © 2022 Minding Animals International Incorporated.

Minding Animals Website and Contact Emails

Please check out the Minding Animals website at www.mindinganimals.com, www.mindinganimals.net, or www.mindinganimals.org

If you have problems accessing any of the sites, you may need to clear your cache. A separate Minding Animals Conference email address has also been established. The emails are:

Enquiry	Relevant Email Address
Minding Animals email (always available)	mindinganimals@gmail.com
Minding Animals Conference	mac5@mindinganimals.com
All membership and donations enquiries	memberships@mindinganimals.com
All Board matters	board@mindinganimals.com
All other matters	admin@mindinganimals.com

Membership of Minding Animals International

All memberships to Minding Animals International will fall due on 31 December, 2022.

The membership fee is available for a flat rate of \$50.00 USD (\$25 for a full time student with proof of student identity). Benefit of memberships:

- An extended membership to 31 December, 2024 (when renewals will fall due)
- A \$50 discount when registering for the 2024 Minding Animals Conference in Sydney
- The Board is currently discussing other benefits

After 2024, ongoing annual memberships will fall due on 31 December of each year. A reminder will be sent to all members before that time. Please note that if you join at any time in 2023 or during 2024, your membership will expire on 31 December, 2024.

If you wish to join, or if you are a lapsed member and wish to re-join, please follow the prompts at: <https://www.mindinganimals.com/become-a-member/>

If you have any problems logging on to our website or membership pages or if you have any other questions, please contact us at: memberships@mindinganimals.com

Donations to Minding Animals International

Did you know that, if you are a US citizen, all donations to Minding Animals International are tax deductible? Minding Animals International is a registered US 501(c)(3) Charity. If interested in donating, please log on to: <http://www.mindinganimals.com/donations/>

MAC5, Sydney, July, 2024

Our Vision

The driving mechanisms of climatic change, the cascading impacts of wildfires, drought and heatwaves, flooding, melting icecaps and glaciers, are all increasing suffering and jeopardising the already fraught survival responses many animals face in the Anthropocene. Further, we believe that unchecked growth and consumption of animals is threatening all life, human or nonhuman animal, plant or otherwise. There is critical urgency in understanding and responding to these threats, at local, regional, and global scales. The ramifications for animals have received only superficial attention to date. Energy is needed to consider how best to support animals through these increasingly prevalent events as well as fostering paradigmatic change in food production and consumption.

Our considered response will only materialise through evaluation of empirical evidence, through discourse among disciplines of environmental and social theory, and through centring of indigenous voices to create inclusive, transparent, and ethically just policy and actions. This is no time for siloed debate and insular decision making. We have therefore created a truly novel space for the intersection of animal studies, animal protection, indigenous perspectives, and conservation science to provide scholars, practitioners, and the community a place to meet and facilitate public and scholarly debates.

Hosted by the Centre for Compassionate Conservation at the University of Technology Sydney, we have designed a conference program to draw upon the co-held values of respect and compassion for all life. The conference will also benefit from the UTS pledge to foster a diverse, inclusive and thriving community, and its goal of cultivating sustainability and social justice values.

We will bring academic rigour to the challenge of tackling the planetary crisis driven by climatic change and animal agriculture by addressing the intersectionality of issues studied within the Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Drawing upon a wide variety of knowledge, including First Nation perspectives, delegates will be drawn not only from academia, but also from government, politics, corporations, and industry, harnessing divergent views on how nonhuman animals are perceived and treated to ensure that issues are considered broadly. Key will be identifying gaps in knowledge and policy actions to support all animals, how they are perceived, and whether they are captive (companions, livestock, zoos) or wild (pest or invasive [that is, out of place], endangered, or common and thriving).

A Meeting of Minds

It was intended that MAI and CfCC would also bring together academics and grassroots animal protection organisations in a '**Meeting of Minds**'. Until it becomes clearer as to the international responses to the pandemic, and especially the policies adopted by animal protection organisations to the crisis and any need to maintain international lockdowns by governments outside Australia, we cannot confirm this particular element of the programme.

If all proceeds, then the Meeting of Minds would discuss:

- How animal protection organisations are reacting to the various crises that the world now faces;
- How animal agriculture and the climate crisis is impacting animals and how those impacts can be alleviated;
- How academics can engage in this process and with animal protection organisations; and,
- How to stimulate solutions to help impart real change for animals, locally and globally.

Abstract and Themes

Please note that the call for abstracts will be issued early in 2023.

Everyone who submits an abstract for the academic component of the conference will be asked to consider the impacts of animal agriculture and the climate crisis on animals. That said, and first and foremost, please understand that the conference is a transdisciplinary animal studies event. So, if your paper does not in any way consider animal agriculture and the climate crisis, your abstract will not be excluded and will indeed be considered for inclusion in the programme.

We believe that the greatest threat posed to the planet, to all planetary life, human or nonhuman animal, plant or otherwise, including the current pandemic, is the intersection of animal agriculture and the climate crisis. Hence, the urgency and criticality of climate as the key theme. Besides the overarching theme and how that is impacting individuals and habitats, all life on our fragile planet, we have also proposed the following and linked sub-themes for your consideration and to help you focus your abstract submission and conference debate:

- The biodiversity crisis and climate change
- Rewilding and compassionate conservation
- The animal industrial complex
- Animals, the circular economy and sustainable food systems
- Animals in development and food sovereignty
- First Nations and decolonisation
- Educating with and for Animals
- Animals, the law and public policy
- Multi-species justice
- Personhood, animal philosophy and bioethics

We also encourage papers that consider animals in art, biodiversity conservation, gender studies, literature, religion, film, the media, medicine, politics, science, veterinary science, the zoological sciences.....and, as for all previous Minding Animals Conferences, the list goes on.....

Thinking About and Presenting at the Conference

Importantly, and unlike previous conferences, there will be delegates from a broader cross-section of society. There will be delegates from government, politics, corporations and industry that will have quite divergent views on how nonhuman animals are perceived/utilised/treated/exploited. In considering nonhuman animals, to not just talk to the 'converted', and to reach tangible outcomes for the future, we believe this is a necessary conference objective. Thus, this conference will seek to encourage dialogue and impart change from a broad cross-section of society.

Minding Animals Conferences are **NOT** animal rights conferences, or wildlife conservation or zoology conferences, or animal welfare conferences, or environmental conferences, or veterinary conferences, they are **ALL** that!

And like all previous conferences, we stress to all delegates who attend MAC5 that they participate in a spirit of honesty and cooperation, accepting that other delegates may have very divergent opinions on how animals are perceived/utilised/treated/exploited, but always with the overall objective of protecting animals, no matter in what form or time frame, with the objective to reach better outcomes for nonhuman animals. Nonetheless, we urge active and critical debate with your fellow delegates.

Planning for MAC5

Further announcements regarding the conference will be made in the coming Minding Animals Bulletins and website as arrangements continue to develop, including establishment of a dedicated website, an official call for abstracts and registrations, and of special events and programmes.

Special note: Sydney (and Australia) IS expensive - PLEASE start to save for your registration, travel and accommodation. If you are an academic or student with an allocated budget or stipend, please make arrangements for funding applications as soon as you can.

A key partner for MAC5 will be Saffron Aid (<http://saffronaid.com>). A component of your registration equal to the need to offset your carbon emissions will be directed by Saffron Aid to the Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund (CNCF). A carbon sink will sequester carbon through a self-sustaining biodiverse tree planting programme in Australia, converting your carbon emissions from your flights into living trees that will be protected in forests in perpetuity. CNCF will plant endemic trees in Australia to offset conference related flights.

Saffron Aid is a registered Australian charity that is helping First Nations peoples and local villagers in developing nations in the Indo Pacific to build micro businesses using traditional skills. These businesses are being mentored through all stages of the business set up with training in basic book keeping, production techniques, marketing and logistic skills. Saffron Aid will also direct your allocated funds to expand and replant large sections of mangroves. Mangroves are one of the key habitats on the planet that store incredible levels of carbon. They are among the most carbon rich habitats on the planet. Your funds will directly increase the planet's living biomass to help shield the planet.

Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lecturers

As many of you would be aware, especially those fortunate to have attended our past events, Minding Animals Conferences are built around one or two Keynotes/Public Lectures, up to ten Plenary Lectures, several Invited (Sub-plenary) Lectures, and parallel talks selected from submitted abstracts. Over the coming months, we will be letting you know who will be providing the Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lectures. So far, the following people have accepted invitations to speak at MAC5:

Plenary Lectures

Marti Kheel Memorial Lecturer: Fiona Probyn-Rapsey



Fiona Probyn-Rapsey is Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Fiona's research connects feminist critical race studies and animal studies (also known as human-animal studies), examining where, when and how gender, race and species intersect. She is the author of *Made to Matter: White Fathers, Stolen Generations* (2013), and co-editor of 3 books, *Animal Death* (2013) and also *Animals in the Anthropocene: Critical Perspectives on Non-human Futures* (2015) and *Animaladies; Gender, Species, Madness* (Bloomsbury 2018) with Lori Gruen. Fiona is also Series Editor (with Melissa Boyde and Yvette Watt) of the Animal Publics book series through Sydney University Press, http://sydney.edu.au/sup/about/animal_publics.html Fiona will deliver the 2024 Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture. She will be introduced by Carol Adams.

Carol Adams

Carol J. Adams is a feminist scholar and activist whose written work explores the cultural construction of overlapping and interconnected oppressions. Adams's first book, *The Sexual Politics of Meat*, is now celebrating its 30th anniversary. Never out of print, it has been translated into many languages. Bloomsbury Publishing recognised the 25th anniversary of its publication by selecting it for the Bloomsbury Revelations series of books that change consciousness. Adams's work is widely cited, anthologised and used as a text in college courses around the world. It has also been the basis for many master's and doctoral theses. *The Sexual Politics of Meat* is considered one of the founding texts of ecocriticism and animal studies, and the New York Times has called it "a bible of the animal rights movement". Her *Sexual Politics of Meat Slide Show* and other presentations have been shown on more

than 130 college campuses. Carol has also edited several important anthologies on ecofeminism, feminism, and animals, including most recently *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth* (with Lori Gruen). Her articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Ms. Magazine, The Christian Century, Tikkun, and Truthdig, among others. Carol will be contributing in several aspects of the conference and will deliver one of two public lectures.



Minding Animals is also extremely proud that Carol is one of our Patrons, with Marc Bekoff, Dale Jamieson, Jill Robinson MBE, Peter Singer AC, Vivek Menon and Nobel laureate, JM Coetzee.

Paul Waldau



Paul Waldau works at the intersection of animal studies, law, ethics, religion, and cultural studies. Paul retired in 2018 from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, where he was Professor in the Animal Behavior, Ecology and Conservation Department and Director of the graduate program in Anthrozoology. After 13 years as a trial lawyer and administrative partner in a California law firm, Paul completed a PhD at Oxford in 1997. He taught Animal Law at Harvard Law School from 2002 to 2014, and from 2009 to 2019 in Harvard's Summer School. An organising member of The Great Ape

Project in 1995, Paul served until 2008 as VP and ED. After founding the Animals and Religion group at the American Academy of Religion, Paul spent a decade teaching ethics and public policy at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, where he was the Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy until 2009. He has completed five books, which include *Animal Studies – An Introduction* and *A Communion of Subjects: Animals in Religion, Science, and Ethics*. See also paulwaldau.com

William Lynn

Bill Lynn is a research scientist in the Marsh Institute at Clark University, a research fellow at the social science think tank Knology, and teaches graduate courses in the Anthrozoology program at Canisius College. He is also the founder of PAN Works, an independent nonpartisan think tank dedicated to the wellbeing of animals. Animals are not simply resources for people or functional units of ecosystem services. They range from the sentient to sapient and social beings who have an intrinsic moral value akin to our own. They deserve our ethical consideration and as human beings we owe them direct duties of care. This includes both wild and domesticated animals whether they are individuals or members of ecological and social communities. Similarly, sustainability is not properly focused on preserving a global elite's lifestyle or ensuring humanity's mere survival. Rather it is helping people, animals and nature to thrive across the planet into perpetuity – deep sustainability. At the more technical level, this means that sustainability must be both scientifically and ethically sound. Its facts and values need to be transparent and accountable to society, while its goals must serve the good of the entire community of life. At a more political level, it means that sustainability must embrace social justice, animal protection, and ecological integrity if it is to truly respect the community of life in all its cultural and natural diversity. Bill seeks to unearth the moral presuppositions and worldviews that are often latent in social and environmental issues. For more on his work, see www.williamlynn.net

Freya Mathews

Freya Mathews is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Philosophy at Latrobe University, Australia. She is the author of over one hundred books, articles and essays on ecological philosophy, including *The Ecological Self* (1991; 2021). Her latest book is *The Dao of Civilization: a Letter to China* (2023). In addition to her research activities, she co-manages a private conservation estate in northern Victoria. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.



Book Recommendations

In this Bulletin, we would like to announce three publications:

Saving Animals, Saving Ourselves

Author: Jeff Sebo

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication: 2022

In 2020, Covid-19, the Australia bushfires, and other global threats served as vivid reminders that human and nonhuman fates are increasingly linked. Human use of nonhuman animals is contributing to pandemics, climate change, and other global threats. And these global threats are, in turn, contributing to biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and nonhuman suffering. Jeff Sebo argues that humans have a moral responsibility to include animals in global health and environmental policy, by reducing our use of animals as part of our mitigation efforts and increasing our support for animals as part of our adaptation efforts.

Applying and extending frameworks such as One Health and the Green New Deal, Jeff Sebo calls for reducing support for factory farming, deforestation, and the wildlife trade; increasing support for humane, healthful, and sustainable alternatives; and considering human and nonhuman needs holistically when we do. Jeff also considers connections with practical issues such as education, employment, social services, and infrastructure, as well as with theoretical issues such as wellbeing, moral status, political status, and population ethics.

In all cases, he shows that these issues are both important and complex, and that we should neither underestimate our responsibilities because of our limitations nor underestimate our limitations because of our responsibilities. Both an urgent call to action and a survey of what ethical and effective action will require, this book is invaluable for everyone interested in what kind of world we should attempt to build and how.

Listen to Jeff talk about his book on the Embrace the Void podcast at:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/ev-232-saving-animals-saving-ourselves-with-jeff-sebo/id1213974770?i=1000552783295>

For more information on Jeff's work, please visit his website: <http://jeffsebo.net>

Rabies in the Streets

Author: Deborah Nadal

Publisher: Pennsylvania State University Press

Publication: 2020

Deborah Nadal is a medical anthropologist specializing in South Asia. As a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow, she is currently working at the University of Glasgow and at the Center for One Health Research at the University of Washington. Deborah provides us with a unique perspective of a nation living with rabies, arguing through a One Health approach of 'interspecies camaraderie' that can save people and animals from the horrors of rabies and almost certain death.

Found in two thirds of the world, rabies is a devastating infectious disease with a 99.9 % fatality rate and no cure once clinical signs appear. *Rabies in the Streets* tells the compelling story of the relationship between people, street animals, and rabies in India, where one third of human rabies deaths occur. Grounded in multispecies ethnography, this book leads the reader through the streets and slums of Delhi and Jaipur, where people and animals, such as dogs, cows, and macaques, interact intimately and sometimes violently.

Deborah explores the intricate web of factors that bring humans and animals into contact with one another within these urban spaces and create favourable pathways for the transmission of the rabies virus across species. This book shows how rabies is endemic in India for reasons that are as much social, cultural, and political as they are biological, ranging from inadequate sanitation to religious customs, from vaccine shortages to reliance on traditional medicine. As we are all aware, the continuous emergence of infectious diseases despite technical medical progress is a growing concern of our times and clearly questions the way we think of animal and environmental health. This original account of rabies challenges conventional approaches of separation and extermination, arguing instead that a One Health approach is our best chance at fostering mutual survival in a world increasingly overpopulated by humans, animals, and deadly pathogens.

The Creative Lives of Animals

Author: Carol Gigliotti

Publisher: New York University Press

Publication: 2022

Most of us view animals through a very narrow lens, seeing only bits and pieces of beings that seem mostly peripheral to our lives. However, whether animals are building a shelter, seducing a mate, or inventing a new game, animals' creative choices affect their social, cultural, and environmental worlds. In *The Creative Lives of Animals*, Carol Gigliotti offers readers intimate glimpses of creativity in the lives of animals, from elephants to alligators to ants. Drawing on a growing body of scientific research, Carol unpacks examples of creativity demonstrated by animals through the lens of the creative process, an important component of creative behaviour, and offers new thinking on animal intelligence, emotion, and self-awareness.

With examples of the elaborate dams built by beavers or the lavishly decorated bowers of bowerbirds, Gigliotti provides a new perspective on animals as agents in their own lives, as valuable contributors to their world and ours, and as guides in understanding how creativity may contribute to conserving the natural world. Presenting a powerful argument for the importance of recognising animals as individuals and as creators of a healthy, biodiverse world, this book offers insights into both the established and emerging questions about the creativity of animals.

As Marc Bekoff has noted: *Now that I've read it once again in print, I'm still taking copious notes. Carol's book is a game-changer. She shows how important creativity – improvisation and invention – is in a wide variety of contexts, including expressing different emotions, playing, socially communicating with others, courting, mating, and raising children, and designing and engineering animals' homes. Science based and easy to read, The Creative Lives of Animals will be of interest to a broad audience, including researchers and non-researchers alike, and surely will change how humans view and treat the fascinating animals with whom we share our magnificent planet.*

Obituaries

Since our last Bulletin, we have lost some of the greats of the animal protection movement. In noting our loss, we reflect on the impact that these greats have had on the lives and protection of animals across the planet, let alone on Animal Welfare, Animal Studies and Animal Liberation as academic disciplines. Minding Animals would especially like to honour Brian Sherman who was a major contributor to Minding Animals since our conception. All will be sorely and forever missed.

Vale Brian Sherman AM



Vale Nancy Regan (photo with the late, great Tom Regan)



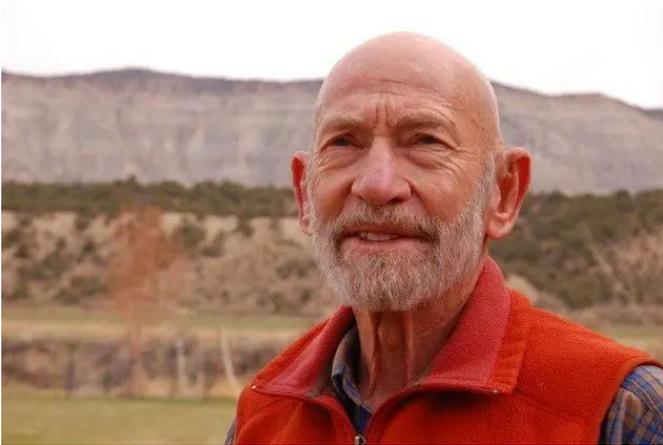
Vale Bernie Rollin



Vale Wendy Wheeler



Vale Michael Soulé



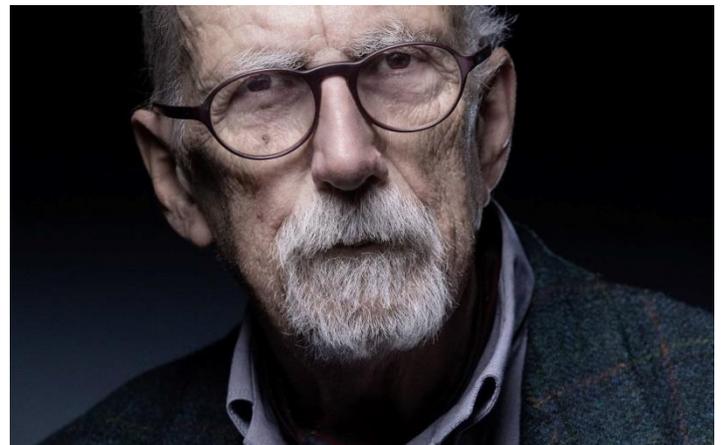
Vale E.O. Wilson



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