



# Conference Newsletter

Conference Newsletter Number One—February, 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the Minding Animals Conference Newsletter. We look forward to regularly updating you on conference progress and important dates to place in your diary.

**Minding Animals  
Conference  
13-19 July, 2009**

## Website launched

The Minding Animals Conference Website was launched on 7 February.

Log on to [www.mindinganimals.com](http://www.mindinganimals.com) to find more information about the conference



## Pre-Conference Lecture Series

Mainly for those interested in the Conference from Australia, a series of Pre-Conference Lectures will be held in March, July & October, 2008, in March, 2009.

**The series will commence on 4 March with lectures presented by Professor Emeritus Marc Bekoff. The first of the series will be held in collaboration with the International Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group, and supported by university schools and interest groups, environmental organisations and animal advocacies. The lectures will take place in Adelaide, Sydney and in Newcastle between 4 and 6 March. The lectures will focus on animal behaviour, wildlife protection and environmentalism.**

The venues at the following locations will be posted on the web on 15 February, 2008:

\* Adelaide University  
7:30pm, 4 March  
Public lecture hosted by WDCS and Adelaide University.

\* Sydney University  
7:00pm, 5 March  
Public lecture hosted by the Veterinary Science for Animal Welfare (VSAW) group at the University of Sydney.

\* University of Newcastle  
Noon, 6 March  
Lecture for students and academics hosted by the School of Psychology at the University of Newcastle.

\* University of Newcastle  
6:00pm, 6 March  
Public lecture hosted by various animal Advocacies and environmental groups based in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

The July series will be delivered in Newcastle and Sydney by [Professor David Rothenberg](#).

Details of later lectures in the series will be posted shortly.

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## Conference Themes and Objectives

The conference has six major themes and objectives:

- To reassess the relationship between the animal and environmental movements in light of climate change and other jointly-held threats and concerns
- To examine how humans identify and represent nonhuman animals in art, literature, music, science, and in the media and on film
- How, throughout history, the objectification of nonhuman animals and nature in science and society, religion and philosophy, has led to the abuse of nonhuman animals and how this has since been interpreted and evaluated
- To examine how the lives of humans and companion and domesticated nonhuman animals are intertwined, and how science, human and veterinary medicine utilise these important connections
- How the study of animals and society can better inform both the scientific study of animals and community activism and advocacy
- And how science and community activism and advocacy can inform the study of nonhuman animals and society

“A conference to consider the intersection between the animal and environmental movements”.

## Plenary Speakers

The conference is fortunate to have some of the most celebrated and gifted animal scholars and advocates as plenary speakers, including some of the founders of the modern animal movement

The plenary speakers are (in alphabetical order):

- Professor Carol Adams
- Professor Emeritus Marc Bekoff
- Professor J Baird Callicott
- Nobel Laureate Professor JM Coetzee
- Professor Dale Jamieson
- Professor Val Plumwood
- Professor Emeritus Tom Regan
- Distinguished Professor Bernard Rollin
- Dr Andrew Rowan
- Professor James Serpell
- Professor Peter Singer
- Professor Emeritus Michael Soulé
- Professor Paul Waldau

Workshop presenters will be announced soon

## The Inside Story

The conference will be a meat-free and smoke-free event. The conference will also strive to be a carbon-neutral event, with a percentage of all registration fees contributed to appropriate local environmental charities to partially offset your carbon usage.

The conference venue will be the Newcastle City Precinct, incorporating the Town Hall, Civic Theatre, Newcastle Playhouse and facilities within the University of Newcastle City Campus

A tentative and working programme will be released on the website after the close of abstracts. The final conference programme will be provided to all Conference registrants.

## Possible topics for discussion at the Conference

- Planetary Chaos and the Future of Human Nonhuman Animal Interrelationships
- Nonhuman Animals throughout History
- Indigenous Traditions and Nonhuman Animals
- Ecological Imperialism and Objectification of Nature
- Settler Societies and Ecological Collapse
- Nonhuman Animals in Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism
- Nonhuman Animals in East Asian Religions
- Nonhuman Animals in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- Philosophical Foundations and Interspecies Justice
- Liberation, Rights and Welfare
- Valuing Animals
- Continental Philosophy
- Nonhuman Animals and the Law
- Protection, Personhood and the Law
- Funding Animal Advocacy and Campaigns
- Animal Liberation, Community Action and the Law
- Government Inaction and Animal Exploitation
- Community Partnerships for Animal Protection
- Protecting the Great Apes
- Marine Mammal Protection and the IWC
- CITES and International Law
- Nonhuman Animals and Politics
- What is an Animal?
- Nonhuman Animals as Social Constructs
- Natural Kinds and Species
- What's in a name – feral, invasive and pest constructions
- Animal Geographies – space, place and being
- Profound Interspecies Encounters
- Animals in Art
- Animals in Literature – fiction and poetry
- Animal in Film and Television
- Animals and Music
- Nonhuman Animals, Race and Gender Issues
- Ecofeminism and Nonhuman Animals
- Nonhuman Animals as Commodities
- Vegetarianism, Veganism and the Human Diet
- Bushmeat
- Hunting, Trading and Collecting Nonhuman Animals
- Experimentation on Nonhuman Animals
- University Ethics Committees
- Nonhuman Animals and the Education System
- Fur, Fashion and Cosmetics
- Nonhuman Animals in Asian Medicine
- Nonhuman Animals in Sport and Entertainment
- Animals in War
- Animals and Violence
- Commercialisation, Management and Protection of Wildlife
- Wildlife Tourism
- Wildlife Management and Biodiversity Conservation Planning
- Human & Wildlife Conflicts – animals out of place
- Environmentalism, Conservation and Animals
- Zoos, Menageries and Wildlife Parks
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Landscape Conservation and Nonhuman Animals
- Wildlife Animal Rescue and Road Kill
- Wildlife Threats and Extinctions
- Urban Wildlife
- Animals in the Built Environment
- Wildlife Translocation & Predator Reintroductions
- Measuring and Sustaining Biodiversity
- Nonhuman Animals and Home Design
- Companion and Farm Animals
- Animal Assisted Therapies
- The Human Nonhuman Animal Bond
- Nonhuman Animals and the Disabled
- Nonhuman Animals in Everyday Human Life
- Companion Animal Welfare, Rights and Protection
- Nonhuman Animals and Children
- Families, Emotions and Grief
- Animal Welfare and the Pound
- Boarding Kennels, Catteries and Welfare
- Down on the Farm – batteries, sheds and feedlots
- Veterinary Practice and the Care of Animals
- Disease Crises and Cross-species Infections
- Nonhuman Animals and Biosecurity
- Animals and Climate Change
- Animals and Disaster Relief

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“The new transdisciplinary field of Animal Studies has arrived”.

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## Call for Panel Sessions Convenors and Conference Working Parties

Considering all possible topics that can be discussed at the Conference and your own academic interests and advocacy activities, would you like to convene a panel session or conference working party of your choice, or be involved in an established committee?

At this stage we have several sub-committees working hard on panels sessions and other aspects of the conference. They include an Arts and Film Events Sub-committee, a Music and Animals Committee, a Law and Justice Issues Sub-committee, French

Literature Sub-committee, Spanish Literature Sub-committee, and a Profound Species Encounters Committee. If you are interested, please email Conference Co-convenor, Rod Bennison, at: [rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au)

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The conference will bring together animal theorists and scientists from a broad range of academic disciplines, with government officials from several nations, representatives from non government organisations, and representatives from industry, to examine the interrelationships between human and nonhuman animals from cultural, historical, geographical, environmental, representational, moral, legal and political perspectives.



## How can I participate?

- Firstly, fill in the Expression of Interest in Attendance form on this website, which will entitle you to receive (with registrants) the conference newsletter
- Attend one or more of the Pre-Conference Lecture Series in March, July or October, 2008, or later in March, 2009
- Attend the Animals in Film Festival in July, 2009
- Come to one of the many exhibitions planned for July and August, 2009, celebrating Animals in Art
- Participate in the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series
- Attend the Public Lecture at the Newcastle Civic Theatre in the evening on 17 July, 2009, featuring a panel of five of our plenary speakers
  - Join in our fantastic social programme
  - Attend the Conference Dinner on 15 July, 2009, and hear our guest speaker for the evening, esteemed Nobel Laureate Professor JM Coetzee
  - If you represent a community group, such as an animal advocacy or environmental organisation, or a corporate body, you may wish to establish a conference display booth
- And most importantly, register for the conference in Newcastle where you will be able to hear our celebrated plenary speakers, or participate in the many planned concurrent sessions, workshops and panel discussions, or visit our academic poster displays