



Minding Animals
2009

Conference Newsletter

Conference Newsletter Number Two— May, 2008

Welcome to the second 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**

Protecting the Animals Seminar Series launched

A key aspect of the conference will be the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series. The Seminars will be run by animal advocacy and environmental organisations and key government bodies. The seminars will consider such varied topics as protecting marine mammals, moon bears, sharks and the great apes, the commercialisation of wildlife, animal advocacy, veterinary practices, and animals and the law.

The Seminar Series has also been designed to increase the dialogue between environmental and animal groups, something that has been lacking and at times has led to tension at the expense of animals. So your input is especially encouraged to help mend wounds and breach the gaps that divide groups that often hold similar, if not the same, objectives.

Seminars will run from one to four hours. They can take the form of a lecture, a panel discussion, a general forum for discussion, or an interactive workshop. A Group Leader will be selected, who may or may not wish to offer a lecture and help guide the discussion.

Participating groups will have access to a display table for the duration of the conference, a complimentary satchel insert, and will be provided with a complimentary registration. Audio-visual equipment will be provided as part of your package. If you are a government agency, or an environmental or animal protection group or advocacy, and are interested in being a participant group, please contact the Minding Animals Secretariat at mindinganimals@pco.com.au

The Minding Animals Conference sponsorship package and the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series were launched on 28 April.

For further details log onto: www.mindinganimals.com

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



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”.

Val Plumwood Memorial Lecture

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. So it is with much sadness that we must announce that one of our plenary speakers, Professor Val Plumwood, has died.

Val will be remembered by many as a leading environmental philosopher, ecofeminist and nature lover. Her empathy for nature is woven throughout her writings which have been highly influential in environmental and feminist thought across the globe.

Val will be remembered at the conference with the delivery of the Val Plumwood Memorial Lecture. The lecture will be delivered by one of Val's dearest friends and an academic associate, Dr Deborah Bird Rose, from the Australian National University in Canberra.

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 participants.

Call for Panel Sessions

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

Sponsorship Package

A variety of levels of sponsorship have been designed to offer a range of benefits allowing selection of a level of involvement that best suits the marketing objectives, budget and goals of an organisation. However, we are more than happy to discuss specific needs and where possible, develop a tailored sponsorship package to suit promotional or marketing targets. Please contact Sarah Mason at the Minding Animals Conference Secretariat, on +61 2 4984 2554 (or email mindinganimals@pco.com.au) if you wish to discuss a package.

Opportunities exist for promotion in printed conference related material and in catering events, including the Welcome Reception, Main Conference Dinner and Seminar Series Dinner, and Art Exhibitions. The following categories of sponsorship are offered:

- [Diamond](#)
- [Platinum](#)
- [Ruby \(Animals in Art and Animals in Film sponsorship\)](#)
- [Gold](#)
- [Silver](#)
- [Bronze](#)
- [Main Conference Dinner](#)
- [Seminar Series Dinner](#)
- [Welcome Reception](#)
- [Lunches](#)
- [Morning Teas](#)
- [Afternoon Teas](#)
- [Corporate Display Tables](#)
- [Approved Animal and Environmental Advocacy NGOs](#)
- [Conference Supporter](#)
- [Conference Brochure, Petitions and Posters Bay](#)

Please visit the website (www.mindinganimals.com) for further details.

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

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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.

We're on the web!
www.mindinganimals.com



How can I participate?

- 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
- Attend the Conference Dinner on 15 July, 2009, and hear our guest speaker for the evening, the 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
- Join in our fantastic conference social programme
- And most importantly, register for the conference in Newcastle where you will be able to hear our celebrated keynote and workshop speakers, or participate in the many planned concurrent sessions, workshops and panel discussions, or visit our academic poster displays