



Minding Animals
2009

Conference Newsletter

Conference Newsletter Number Six — April, 2009

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Minding Animals Conference Newsletter.

**Civic Precinct,
Newcastle,
Australia,
13-18 July, 2009**

Inside this issue:

Final Pre-conference Lecture	2
First Call for Full Conference Papers	2
Call for Moderators	2
Special Lunchtime Roundtables	2
Art and Documentaries Festivals	3
Interfaith Service	3
Conference Dinners	3
Contact Details	4

**Final Draft Programme for the
Minding Animals Conference
to be released on conference
website on 8 May**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA**



Pre-conference Lecture - Newcastle: 6 May

The final Minding Animals Pre-conference Lecture which will be held in Newcastle, Australia, on 6 May, 2009, from 5 pm to 7 pm in Room UNH416, University House, Cnr. King and Auckland Streets, Newcastle.

Speakers will include Professor Steve Garlick, pre-eminent Australian wildlife advocate and carer, and Bruce Wagman, a leading animal protection litigator from the USA.

The lecture is being held in conjunction with the Voiceless Animal Law Protection Series (see www.voiceless.com.au for details), and will be hosted by the University of Newcastle Law School.

Refreshments will be provided. Thanks go to Vicki Kendross of the Law School and Katrina Sharman from Voiceless for organising the event.

First Call for Full Conference Papers

This is the first call for full conference papers. All session presenters will be eligible to have their work published in the Minding Animals Book Series. When delegates lodged their abstracts, they were asked to tick the publications box if they wanted their paper considered for publication.

Publications will include special editions of at least six journals and a book series currently being negotiated with a prestigious publication house.

If you are interested in publication, please forward your paper in Word 2003 or 2007 format to the Conference Co-convenor, Dr Rod Bennison, at: rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au

Papers MUST be in Times New Roman 12pt. format.

NB. If you want your paper distributed at the conference, you must supply your own copies.

Call for Moderators for Conference Sessions

Are you interested in moderating sessions at the Minding Animals Conference? If you are interested, please contact the Conference Manager, Sarah Mason at: mindinganimals@pco.com.au by 29 May.

You will be provided with a set of rules (which is currently being framed) that will allow you to ensure the conference runs on a timely and efficient basis.

It will also be the moderators obligation to ensure that presenters are introduced, are asked reasonably brief questions, and that presenters and the session does not go beyond the allotted time-frame.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Co-convenor, Dr Jill Bough, at: jill.bough@newcastle.edu.au

Expression of Interest: Special Lunchtime Conference Sessions

There will be Special Lunchtime Roundtable sessions held on every day of the conference (excluding the first day). They will be dedicated to:

- Tuesday - Nonhuman Animals and the Queer Communities
- Wednesday - Student Forum
- Thursday - Activist Exchange
- Friday - Feminist Approaches to Nonhuman Animals
- Saturday - Animals and Society Groups Follow-up

If you are interested in being involved in any of these roundtable sessions at the conference, all you need do is just turn up and add to the debate that ensues.

There will be no fixed agenda, just a space where those delegates that are interested in these issues can engage in debate, exchange ideas, and swap contact details.

The Saturday session will expand on the ideas elaborated by delegates in the Animals and Society Groups Forum presentations from Monday.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Co-convenor, Dr Rod Bennison, at: rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au

**"We cannot have
peace among men
whose hearts find
delight in killing
any living
creature".**

Rachel Carson

Animals and Art Exhibitions

Several exhibitions will be held during and following the Conference.

We will also have a special exhibition and fundraiser for the Tasmanian Devil which is faced with extinction after a debilitating disease has swept through much of its population. The exhibition will be held at the Conservatorium of Music Foyer in Newcastle, close to the conference venue on Tuesday evening 14 July.

Watt Space will also be hosting a drop-in space for students and others that are not conference

delegates and who are interested in animals and art. Delegates to the conference are also encouraged to drop in to discuss their teaching and research with attendees.

The student exhibition at the Watt Space Gallery will include two student prizes to be judged by Dr Gene Sherman and Brian Sherman AM, and presented at the Closing Plenary of the conference.

More details regarding all the exhibitions are available on the Conference website.

Interfaith Service

An Interfaith Service will be held in conjunction with the conference on Sunday, 12 July, 2009. The service will be held from 2.30pm at the Christ Church Anglican Cathedral close to the Conference venue.

The service will also involve representatives from other Christian denominations, as well as the Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Baha'i and Hindu faiths.

All the faithful are invited to participate.

Animal Documentaries

An Animal Documentaries Festival will be held in on 12 July, the day before the conference. The Festival will include the Australian release of the multi-award winning film, 'Saving Luna'. Also to have their Australian release will be the documentaries, 'Meat the Truth', 'Animal People', 'American Coyote - Still Wild at Heart' and 'The Disenchanted Forest'.

Also shown will be the Australian documentaries 'A Delicate Balance', as well as 'Animal Matters' and 'Beyond the Cage', and the UK-produced 'Servants of Ganesh' and 'Safer Medicines'.

The festival will be held in the Playhouse Theatre, attached to the Civic Theatre and adjacent to the Conference Venue.

Conference Dinners (and change of date for Seminar Series dinner)

Delegates are urged to consider coming along to one or both of the Conference Dinners.

The Main Conference Dinner will feature a talk by the esteemed Nobel Laureate and animal advocate, Professor JM Coetzee. The dinner, with vegan and vegetarian options, will commence at 7:30 pm.

Before the dinner, delegates can also attend a Pre-Dinner Panel Discussion with Professors Peter Singer, Dale Jamieson and Bernie Rollin in the conference venue.

Pre-dinner drinks will be held at the opening of the Animal Logic exhibition in the Front Room Gallery.

The second **Seminar Series Conference Dinner will now be held on Friday evening** and will feature the world-renowned animal advocate, Jill Robinson MBE. Jill is most famous for her efforts in establishing the Animals Asia Foundation and for saving hundreds of bears in Asia from bile farms.

Pre-dinner drinks will be held at the joint opening of the Minding Animals exhibition by Carol Adams and which feature artworks by famous Australian and Canadian artists. The exhibition will be held at the adjoining John Paynter and Lock-up Galleries.

Please visit the Minding Animals website to sign up.

**"If women are
ontologised as
sexual beings,
animals are
ontologised as
carriers of meat".**

Carol J. Adams

Conference Social Programme

Other than the Conference Dinners, a varied social programme is on offer for delegates. The conference programme also allows a free afternoon where delegates can join an optional mini-excursion. Tours include:

- [Australian Reptile Park](#)
- [Bushwalking and Birdwatching in the Lower Hunter River Wetlands](#) (highly recommended)
- [Canoeing the Ironbark Trail at Hunter Wetlands Centre](#)
- [Hunter Valley Wine Tour](#) (highly recommended)
- [Whale and Dolphin Watching](#) (seats are now limited)
- [Koala Tour at Blackbutt Wildlife Reserve and Whale Spotting](#) (highly recommended)
- [RSPCA Animal Shelter](#)
- [Kakadu and Beyond Walking Tour](#)

Conference Accommodation and Buses: Book NOW, Options Are Limited

Delegates are urged to finalise their accommodation bookings as soon as possible, particularly those delegates that book at a hotel more than 25 minutes walk from the venue and require a conference bus.

There are very few spots left on the conference bus - please book NOW!

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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.

Register Now at: www.mindinganimals.com