

Minding Animals Bulletin 56

In this Bulletin you will find further details about the conference and information about additional speakers. For specific questions relating to the conference, please email mac5@mindinganimals.com
The following timeline will assist you in your conference preparations.



MINDING ANIMALS CONFERENCE 5
11-17 JULY 2024
SYDNEY/GADIGAL COUNTRY, AUSTRALIA
Abstracts open now, submissions close 23 March 2024
Details @ www.mindinganimals.com

MAC5 Timeline

Conference Website	Open
Call for Abstracts	Open
Registration of Interest for Panel Discussions/Workshops	Open
Online Registrations Open	1 February, 2024
Announcement of Venue	1 February, 2024
Close of Abstracts	23 March, 2024
Final Notification of Selection Process (notification will be progressive)	13 April, 2024
Close of Earlybird Registrations	30 April, 2024
Close of all Online Registrations	28 June, 2024
Removal of abstracts from the programme if registrations remain unpaid	2 July, 2024
Release of final programme to all registrants	4 July, 2024
Welcome Reception at Conference Venue	18:00, 10 July, 2024
Conference	11 to 17 July, 2024

MAC5 Survey

To assist us in our preparations and to make your visit a memorable one, please complete the following survey by clicking on the following link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7598438/MAC5-EOI>

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 © 2023 Minding Animals International Incorporated.

The Call for Abstracts is now available at www.mindinganimals.com

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 threats 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:

- Compassionate conservation, restoration ecology and rewilding
- The biodiversity crisis and climate change
- 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, abolitionist conferences, or wildlife conservation or zoology conferences, or animal welfare conferences, or anthrozoology conferences, 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.

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. 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).

Key Aspects of the Conference

The Host

The host of Minding Animals Conference 5 will be the Centre for Compassionate Conservation (CCC) located within the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). CCC is the leading research and education centre of the interdisciplinary field of compassionate conservation. It conducts research around the world, including Australia, South Africa, USA, Middle East and Asia, to develop compassionate approaches to conservation challenges. It focusses on critical conservation challenges such as stemming extinction, resolving human wildlife conflict, ending wildlife trade, enhancing the welfare of wild animals, and promoting coexistence.

Conference Website

The conference website is located via a direct link from the Minding Animals International website located at www.mindinganimals.com

The Venue

Details regarding the venue will be made available on the conference website in early 2024 – keep an eye out ! The venue will be fully wheelchair accessible via ramps and lifts, with an accessible bathroom on site. Hearing loops will also be available.

All conference delegates are invited to commence their participation at the Welcome Reception at the venue at 18:00 on Wednesday, 10 July, and for the conference from 8:00 on Thursday, 11 July, 2024.

Registering for the Conference

Registrations will be made available on the conference website in early 2024 – keep an eye out !

Accommodation Facilities

Suggested accommodation options will also be provided on the conference website in early 2024.

Keynote, Plenary and Invited Speakers

As many of you would be aware, especially those fortunate to have attended our past events, Minding Animals Conferences are built around Keynotes and Public Lectures, Plenary Lectures and parallel Invited (aka. Sub-plenary) Lectures. Our speakers are selected for their renowned status within the animal protection movement, knowledge on our key themes or their specialist knowledge within Animals Studies. Keep an eye out for speaker announcements in all the Minding Animals Bulletins and on the conference website.

Memorial Events

Several Memorial Lectures and Panels will be held during the conference, celebrating the lives and impacts of these important Animals Studies figures (details on each soon):

- Marti Kheel – the Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture will be provided by Fiona Probyn-Rapsey
- Brian Sherman Memorial Panel
- Siobhan O’Sullivan Memorial Panel
- Karen Dalke Memorial Panel on Equines
- Deborah Bird Rose Memorial Panel on Extinction

Interfaith Service

Minding Animals Conferences are known for their Interfaith Services. Who can forget the services at Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle or at the Lotus Temple in New Delhi?

An Interfaith Service will once again be held for MAC5. Key an eye out on future announcements regarding the preparations and arrangements. Our Interfaith Keynote is announced below.

Protecting the Animals Seminar Series

The Series is part of our sponsorship package available for \$AUD3,000.00 for animal and environmental advocacy non-government organisations where groups will be entitled to a guaranteed one hour presentation slot in the programme, two complimentary registrations, as well as a complimentary table display/chairs and satchel insert (all costs associated with the production and supply of the printed material to the insert is to be borne by the NGO). Further details will be available on the MAI website in January or from mac5@mindinganimals.com

Panel Discussions and Workshops

Minding Animals Conferences are renowned for facilitating networking opportunities and establishing long-standing working partnerships and friendships, none more so than that facilitated in the many panel discussions and workshops on offer.

Would you be interested in organising or participating in a special themed panel or workshop at the conference? What topics would you be interested in organising and or participating? If so, please look at the list on the following pages for some suggestions and how you can contribute.

Art Festival and Performance Art

The Inaugural Minding Animals Conference is often remembered for the 18 galley exhibitions and opening of Animals in Art. Smaller exhibitions were also held in Utrecht and New Delhi. Some logistical issues have presented themselves for organising a larger event for MAC5; however, we hope that, at the very least, a virtual event is able to be achieved, but nonetheless still hopeful that we can organise a limited exhibition in some form.

Are you interested in displaying your artwork (actual or virtual) or providing a performance art piece during the conference? If so, please email us at mac5@mindinganimals.com

Documentaries

Cutting edge and award winning short films, documentaries and feature films have been provided at each Minding Animals Conference. Delegates leave sessions invigorated, inspired and sometimes visibly moved. We are again planning to showcase new and some older documentaries to feast the eyes and senses. Highlights from previous years include:

- Saving Luna
- Cowspiracy
- Sonic Sea
- Kangaroo: A Love Hate Story
- The Ghosts in Our Machine
- Meat the Truth

Welcome Reception

All conference delegates are invited to commence their participation in the conference at the Welcome Reception at the conference venue from 18:00 on Wednesday, 10 July, and then in the morning after with conference proceedings commencing at 8:00 on Thursday, 11 July, 2024.

Conference Dinner

What's a conference without a dinner? When registering, you will be able to select the dinner option at a site close to the conference venue. The dinner will be held in the evening on Saturday, 13 July, 2024. All food will be vegan. A charge will apply for this event.

Closing Event

And who will be able to resist letting off some steam after an intense conference? All delegates are invited to the closing event where conference awards will be presented and the host for MAC6 announced. You will be able to enjoy some great beverages, dance the night away before your departure, and continue to make some long-lasting friendships.

Climate

Winter in central Sydney tends to be mild where the lows rarely drop below 5C (41°F), and highs hover at around 15-22C (59-72°F), mainly due to proximity to the ocean. Furthermore, Sydney CBD has never recorded frost. Nevertheless, we do recommend you bring a warm jacket and additional clothing if you intend to stay for longer in Australia, particular if travelling inland or to more southerly environments, such as Tasmania, Melbourne or the Australian Alps.

COVID and other health concerns

Australia no longer has any restrictions regarding COVID19. We will have masks and hand sanitiser available for delegates at the door if desired. We nonetheless recommend vaccination before you travel. As it will be winter in July, you should also consider the influenza vaccine.

Also note that Australia is malaria free. And, ONLY if you intend to handle or study bats during your stay in Australia, we recommend rabies vaccinations as Australian bats are known to carry Lyssavirus.

We would also like to remind delegates to not forget to bring all their requisite medication.

Force Majeure

Minding Animals International Incorporated, the Board, conference host, or any other Minding Animals committee or entity, are not liable for claims for damages and or losses if a Minding Animals Conference, any Partner event, or any session within a Conference or Partner event, is cancelled due to a force majeure incident.

Disclaimer

The organisers are not liable for damages and or losses of any kind which may be incurred by delegates or by any other individuals accompanying them, prior to the conference, and both during the official activities as well as going to or from the event. Delegates are responsible for their own safety and belongings.

Insurances

Any specific registration fee does not cover insurance for event delegates. Event organisers recommend that delegates take out insurance in their home country to cover pre-journey cancellation for personal reasons and necessary insurance to cover accidents, medical expenses and loss of personal belongings during their travel or conference stay.

Registration of Interest for Panel Discussions/Workshops

Would you be interested in organising or participating in a special themed panel or workshop at the conference? What topics would you be interested in organising and or participating? If so, please email us at mac5@mindinganimals.com

Here are some suggestions (in no particular order):

- Compassionate Conservation/Rewilding/Restoration Ecology
- Wildlife Coexistence/Human Animals Conflict/Wildlife in the City (mammals, birds, bats, insects)
- Ecophilosophy
- Animals and Climate Change
- Animal Agriculture/ Animals Industrial Complex
- Animals and Feminism
- Animals and Plastic Waste
- Animals and Food Systems
- Animals and First Peoples
- The Realities of Animal Lives and Questions of Modernity
- Justice and the Status of Animals
- Animals and the Law - International Law and Animals Rights, and National Perspectives
- Animal Law Education
- Effective Altruism
- Fighting Animals, and Animals in Sport
- Veterinary Medicine
- Bioethics, Experimentation and Cosmetics
- Animals Welfare Standards
- 'Helping' Wild Animals
- Animals and Art
- Animals and Health (including One Health)
- Animals and Religion
- Animals and Captivity/Zoos and Rescue Centres
- Animal Minds
- Animals and Higher Education
- Animals and Literature
- Animals and History
- Animals and Tourism
- Apes, Elephant, Big Cats, Aquatic Animals, Marine Mammals, Reptiles and Birds
- Animals in War, Conflict and Disasters
- Animals and the Fashion Industry
- Animals and Music
- Animals in Art
- Animals in Film/Documentaries
- Animals and Politics
- Animals and the LGBTIQ+ communities (including MVPFAFF and SGM/GSM/GSRM)
- Animals in Post-humanist Studies
- Animals and Post-colonialism
- Animals and Development Studies

Speakers

We are proud to announce the following additional speakers (for other speakers see previous Bulletins at www.mindinganimals.com/bulletins):

Interfaith Service Keynote Speaker

Candace Laughinghouse



Candace Laughinghouse began her personal transformation by theological education from the Candler School of Theology (MDiv), Duke Divinity School (ThM) and Chicago Theological Center (PhD) with a pedestrian interest in the Black church. Her transformation into anti-speciesist ecowomanism forged beyond any particular religious denomination, thus allowing her to experience a consciousness of God and of herself as the Imago Dei. In the power and knowledge of this transformation, she continues to evolve into this newness of caring for creation by highlighting shared oppressions and indigenous perspectives as a more authentic theory and praxis in social justice that includes all of Creation. Candace's work within interfaith projects, lectures and writings inform her research and energises her to understand that while humans may be culturally different, we are elementally identical as we breathe the same air. As such, she is an emerging leader in eco justice and animal justice to save the planet, our families, and humanity's future quality of life. She currently teaches at St. Augustine's University and is recipient of various consults and teaching fellowships. Candace also serves on the board of the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, the Black Religious Scholars Group, the Culture and Arts Foundation and recently contributed to an online lectionary centralising farm animals through CreatureKind. Her greatest commitment and accomplishment is her three young daughters and raising them in the awareness of God's love for all Creation.

Plenary Speakers

John Woinarski



John Woinarski is a professor of conservation biology at Charles Darwin University. His research focuses mostly on the ecology and conservation of Australian biodiversity, with particular interest in island biogeography; the impacts of fire, forestry, habitat loss and mining; the impacts of introduced animals, especially cats; extinction; monitoring; and management. Much of his life has been devoted to research on and conservation of threatened bird and mammal species. He has published about 300 scientific journal articles, numerous popular articles, and authored or edited 12 books, including *A bat's end: the Christmas Island pipistrelle and extinction in Australia*, *The Nature of Northern Australia: natural values, ecological processes and future prospects*, *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals*, *Recovering Australian Threatened Species: a book of hope* and *Cats in Australia: companion and killer*.

Invited Speakers

Roberto Marchesini

Roberto Marchesini is Director of the School of Human Animal Interaction and the Center for the Study of Posthumanist Philosophy, both based in Bologna, Italy. He teaches applied ethology in many Italian Universities in Masters dedicated to animal welfare and behavioural medicine. His research focused on the theme of animal subjectivity and the ontology of animality, promoting a philosophical ethology perspective. Roberto has a degree in veterinary medicine and is Director of the journal *Animal Studies*. He has published hundreds of articles on the topics of animal bioethics.



Roberto's major publications include: *Over the human: Post-humanism and the Concept of Animal Epiphany*, *Dialogo Ergo Sum*, *Beyond Anthropocentrism*, *The Virus Paradigm*, with Marco Celentano *Critical Ethology and Post-Anthropocentric Ethics*, *The Creative Animal: How Every Animal Builds its Own Existence*, and *Technophysiology or How Technology Modifies the Self*. In 2018, Jeffrey Bussolini, Brett Buchanan and Matthew Chrulew published the essay *The Philosophical Ethology of Roberto Marchesini* reporting his proposal for the ontology of animality. See: <https://independent.academia.edu/RobertoMarchesini>

Anja Heister



Born and raised in Germany, Anja Heister, is an independent researcher, writer and lifelong proponent of animal liberation - domestic and wild. Anja believes in the need for dismantling 'human supremacy' and doing so by cultivating empathy and compassion for all animal persons. A former wildlife campaigner, Anja co-founded Footloose Montana in 2007, a non-profit organisation dedicated to ending the trapping of wild animals on public land in Montana. She created and then taught the organisation's popular trap-release program for several years - workshops offered to the public at no costs to learn about trapping regulations and how to free one's companion animal from a trap or snare. Anja is a champion for the Just One Health approach for social change and publishes frequently on topics related to wild animal conservation, animal liberation, ethics, and policy. She is the author of *Beyond the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: From Lethal to Compassionate Conservation*.

Jeff Sebo

Jeff Sebo is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Affiliated Professor of Bioethics, Medical Ethics, Philosophy, and Law, Director of the Animal Studies MA Program, Director of the Mind, Ethics, and Policy Program, and Co-Director of the Wild Animal Welfare Program at New York University. He is the author of *Saving Animals, Saving Ourselves* (2022) and co-author of *Chimpanzee Rights* (2018) and *Food, Animals, and the Environment* (2018). Jeff is also an executive committee member at the Center for Environmental and Animal Protection, an advisory board member at the Insect Welfare Research Society, a senior research fellow at the Legal Priorities Project, and a mentor at Sentient Media.

Glenn Albrecht

Glenn A. Albrecht is an Honorary Associate in the School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He retired as Professor of Sustainability, Walter Murdoch University, in mid-2014. He continues to work as an environmental philosopher and published *Earth Emotions* in 2019 (also published in French and Spanish). In numerous publications and public talks over the last two decades, Glenn has developed the theme of the psychoterratic (psyche-earth), or negative and positive emotional states connected to the state of the Earth. New concepts, developed by him, are now becoming well established in the international scholarly literature, new research theses and as inspiration for many creative people in the arts and music. He currently lives at Wallaby Farm on Wonnarua Land in NSW. He describes himself as a 'farmosopher', combining thinking and writing with growing food and protecting a haven for wildlife. While he is best known for creating the concept of solastalgia, or the lived experience of negative environmental change, his most recent work develops the mega-meme of the 'Symbiocene', a future state where humans reintegrate with the rest of nature. A book of that title should be completed and published by the end of 2024.



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 5	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

Membership of Minding Animals International Incorporated is now available. The fee is available for a flat rate of \$50.00 USD (\$25 for a full time student with proof of student identity). Your Paypal invoice will be your receipt.

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/Gadigal Country
- The Board is currently discussing other benefits

Subsequently, 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.

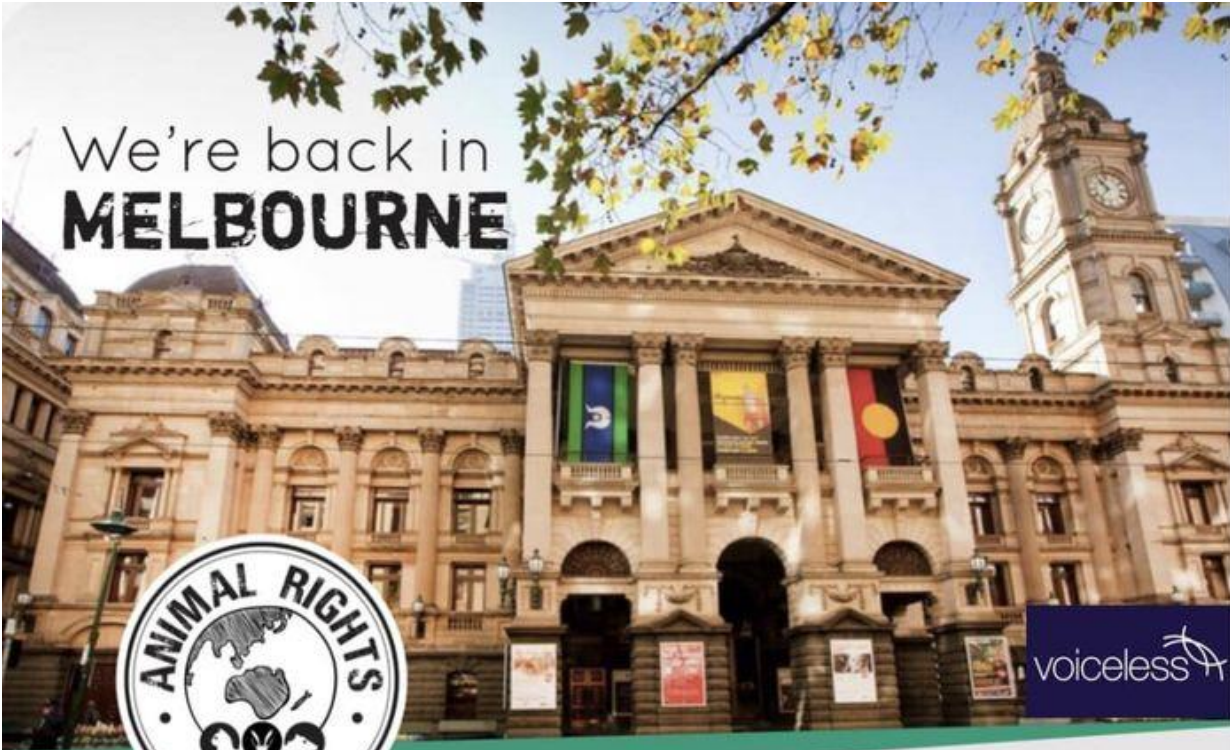
If you wish to join, or if you are a lapsed member and wish to re-join, please follow the prompts at: <https://www.mindinganimals.com/become-a-member/>

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/> Your Paypal invoice will be your receipt.

We're back in
MELBOURNE



24-25 February 2024
MELBOURNE TOWN HALL



After a four year break the Animal Activists Forum is reborn as Animal Rights Forum, and returns to Melbourne Town Hall in February. The event exists to promote networking between Australian animal advocates, to provide opportunities for education and training of activists, and share experience among activists.

With a packed agenda of over 30 talks and 50 speakers, the aim is to cover all aspects on Animal Rights, and whilst organised in line with a vegan philosophy, the event aims to be wide in scope, with the hope that our movement will benefit from networking between activists working in diverse areas. For the first time ever we will be offering an online livestream of our main room.

For the first time, the forum will host the Animal Defenders Expo where animal protection groups can present their information, and network with activists. The Expo is a great opportunity for groups to find new volunteers, and volunteers to find opportunities.



Animal Justice Awards

The forum is also working with The Animal Justice foundation to present the 2024 Animal Justice Awards, which will be presented on the Saturday afternoon, after the first day of the Forum. Following the awards, there will be a celebratory canapé evening, on the Town Hall's iconic Balcony! Tickets for the social evening are sold separately from the forum, but through the same booking system.

As in previous years, local activists will be hosting activist events in the centre of the city. So, if you are available on the day before the forum, come and join us, the day of activism aims to be friendly to new activists, entirely peaceful, and is a great introduction to practical activism, and working with new people from across Australia.

Tickets to the forum are now on sale. For further details, visit www.animalrightsforum.org



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