Compassionate Conservation: Is recreational hunting defensible?

Getting conservation strategies right has never been more important. The planet is facing its sixth biodiversity extinction event and Australia has a myriad of environmental problems with which to deal. Getting things right is not just about doing the best for the environment it is also about treating the wild animals that live within it humanely and with compassion.

There is a growing international movement called "Compassionate Conservation" that seeks to build the welfare of individual animals into conservation practice, for the betterment of both. You might ask, how will this work?

In this talk Emeritus Professor Marc Bekoff and Dr Daniel Ramp will discuss the compassionate conservation approach and its principles. They will then apply these principles to examine the use of recreational hunting as a conservation tool to control introduced species in New South Wales. One of the big questions this lecture will address is "Does the reported conservation gain outweigh the animal welfare cost?"

This is a UTS and Minding Animals partner event.

Marc Bekoff is Emeritus Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado and a former Guggenheim Fellow. He has published more than 500 scientific and popular essays and twenty-three books. In his latest book Ignoring Nature No More: The Case for Compassionate Conservation he collaborated with Dr Daniel Ramp who provided the Australasian perspective on Compassionate Conservation. In 2009 he was presented with the Saint Francis of Assisi Award by the Auckland (New Zealand) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). In 2005, Marc was presented with The Bank One Faculty Community Service Award for the work he has done with children, senior citizens, and prisoners as part of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program. In 2000 he was awarded the Exemplar Award from the Animal Behavior Society for major long-term contributions to the field of animal behaviour.

Dr Daniel Ramp is a compassionate conservation biologist with an interest in animal behaviour, road ecology, biogeography and wildlife-human interactions. As a Senior Lecturer in the School of the Environment at UTS, he has published widely on science that informs conservation initiatives aimed at understanding, mitigating, and adapting to environmental change. With a long interest in marsupials from the family Macropodidae, including a PhD from the University of Melbourne on eastern grey kangaroos, Daniel is a co-founder of THINKK, the think tank for kangaroos as well as a Director of Voiceless, the Animal Protection Institute. Recently Daniel along with other THINKK researchers contributed a chapter Compassionate Conservation: A paradigm shift for wildlife Management in Australasia for the new book Ignoring Nature No More: The Case for Compassionate Conservation.

When: Friday 15 February, 2013
Time: 6:00pm drinks for a 6:30pm start. Concludes at 7:45pm
Where: University Hall, UTS Building 4, Level 2, Harris St, Ultimo
RSVP: Thursday 14 February, 2013
Register online at [www.science.uts.edu.au](http://www.science.uts.edu.au) or email Lisa.Aloisio@uts.edu.au

These are free public lectures presented by UTS experts in science; discussing a range of important scientific issues confronting contemporary Australia.