



**AUSTRALASIAN ANIMAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday 11th December 2024 5.00pm – 6.00pm AEDT
2pm WA; 3.30pm NT; 4pm QLD; 4.30pm SA; 5pm NSW/Vic/Tas/ACT; 7pm NZ

Meeting via Zoom:

<https://scuonline.zoom.us/j/85628055138?pwd=GMPbVbwQwoxxmDKiNPwRfhDkhrQZK>

[S.1](#)

Meeting ID: 856 2805 5138

Passcode: 236848

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of Country

Heather opened the meeting with a welcome and an acknowledgement of country.

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Alex McEwan, Chantelle Bayes, Heather Fraser, Laura Jean McKay, Zoei Sutton, Natalie Lis, Emily Major, Rebecca Scollen, Lisa Powell, Philip McKibbin, Davita Coronal, Dinesh Wadiwel, Ondine Sherman, Melissa Boyd, Debbie Rodan, Danielle Calermajer, Fer do Campo, lynn mowson

Apologies: Josephine Browne, Lynley Tulloch, Nik Taylor

3. Declaration of previous minutes true and correct (AGM 23)

Moved by Dinesh Wadiwel, seconded by Zoei Sutton. **Motion Carried.**

3. Annual Reports

3.1 Chair and Events Report – Heather Fraser

- Heather spoke to the Chair report – see appendix A.
- Heather recognised the amount of work that the committee has done this year and the respectful and sensitive way that the committee has conducted this work.
- Heather discusses a need to have a separate membership secretary – we need to call for a committee member to take this role on.

3.2 Treasurer Report – Lisa Powell

- Lisa spoke to the Treasurer's report – see appendix B.
- Profit was high this year due to the bequest and surplus from the last conference.

3.3 Communications and Social Media Report – Laura Jean McKay

- Laura gave an overview of the sub-committee roles.

- AASA is looking at expanding social media with the switch from X to BlueSky.
- There will be some exciting transitions on the website to come in the new year.
- AASA received half a million views and 347 unique visitors to the website this year¹.

4. Other updates:

AASA Updates

- Natalie reports that there were 200 views of the update.

Conference sub-committee

- Rebecca reports that the sub-committee will be putting out a CFP for the 2025 conference soon.
- The sub-committee is working towards an inclusive and diverse conference.

Siobhan O'Sullivan book prize and bequest

- Dinesh provided an overview of the bequest which Siobhan left to AASA to support the award of a book prize, ECR prize and popular communication prize for animal studies biannually over the next decade.
- There is currently no book prize for the animal studies field and its often difficult for animal studies scholar to qualify elsewhere due to the interdisciplinary and marginalised nature of the field.
- Soon there will be a webpage on the AASA website with details of the book prize which will be awarded for the first time next year at the 2025 conference.

Animail

- Ondine encouraged AASA members to send her work for inclusion in Animail – Artworks and feature articles are especially welcome.
- Ondine also offered to do design work for AASA and previously designed a poster for the Val Plumwood Lecture and Workshop.

Indigenous Engagement Sub-Committee

- Philip reported on the creation of the sub-committee and gave an overview of progress made this year.
- The sub-committee has discussed what Indigenous engagement looks like for AASA, made some progress around strategies for engagement and provided input into the conference planning. This work will continue in 2025.
- Incoming AASA committee members are encouraged to contact Philip if they are interested in joining the sub-committee.

5. Animal Studies Journal – Melissa Boyd

- The journal receives ongoing support from the University of Wollongong and will move to new platform (Janeway through the University of London).
- The journal continues to have a commitment to making scholarship freely available and the new platform facilitates this through open access.

¹ Updated following the meeting to clarify the number of website views v unique visitors. Unique visitors is the more accurate measure of website traffic.

- The new website will appear on search engines in the next week and in the meantime people can use the link from Animap to access the journal:
<https://www.uowoaajournals.org/asj/>
- The journal archive with all back issues is already on the new site.
- ASJ is run on a volunteer basis and requires the free labour of many people to operate – thanks to all reviewers, authors, editors and guest editors who enable the publication.
- Special thanks to Sally Borell who has been with the journal from the start and Teja Brooks Pribac who manages the website.
- The journal reached a milestone this year – the next published issue is the 25th edition.
- Next year's issue will be made up of invited papers on the enduring legacy of scholar Deidre Wicks who passed away in 2020 (Dinesh and Heather are both contributors to this issue)
- AASA members are encouraged to submit work and review papers for ASJ, particularly in this climate where peer reviewing is becoming increasingly difficult to secure.

5. Voting in new committee

Heather called for all existing members to step down from their positions.

The nominations received prior to November 13 were:

- Zoei Sutton (Chair)
- Lisa Powell (Treasurer)
- Chantelle Bayes (Secretary)
- Natalie Lis (general member)
- Emily Major (general member)
- Laura Jean McKay (general member)
- Fernando do Campo (general member)
- Philip McKibben (general member)
- Rebecca Scollen (general member)
- Andi Stapp-Gaunt (general member)
- Davita Coronel (general member)
- Tracy Young (general member)
- Yamini Narayanan (general member)

Heather Fraser called for nominations from the floor including to fill the deputy chair position and role of membership officer.

Nominations from the floor were:

- Dinesh Wadiwel (Deputy Chair)
- Natalie Lis (membership officer – amendment to above)

A motion was held asking that the Association resolves that there be 10 ordinary committee members holding office in the 2024/2025 year. Moved by Dinesh Wadiwel, seconded by Laura Jean McKay. **Motion carried.**

A motion was held asking that the office holders and general members (as above) be accepted as the incoming committee members of the association for the 2024/2025 year. Moved by Dinesh Wadiwel, seconded by Heather Fraser. **Motion carried.**

7. Thanks to departing committee members

Those stepping down from the committee:

- Heather Fraser (Chair)
- Lynley Tulloch (general member)
- Alexandra McEwan (general member)
- Nik Taylor (general member)
- Josephine Browne (general member)

8. Common Seal Officer/Public Officer

- Thanks to lynn mowson for holding this role in 22-24.
- The responsibilities will be transferred to current committee members as is relevant to their roles. This includes contacts for banking, accreditation of AASA, ASIC business name, ABN/ATO, social media, website administration and Paypal.
- **lynn also raises a need to consider where we will be accredited going forward.**

9. Other business.

Workshop proposal:

- thinking about conflicts of interests when researching and preparation of papers for submission;
- being aware that certain statements come with risks, for example, they could be construed as defamatory;
- The use of AI in research and publishing.

The committee and members present discussed the possibility of holding a workshop for the committee first to build capacity and then running a workshop at the conference in 2025.

AASA AGM REPORT 2024

PREPARED BY HEATHER FRASER, CHAIR

Acknowledgement of Country



Many of the scholars who form the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA) work on the lands of First Nations peoples. AASA would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the connection to land of First Nations people as well as immense and ongoing knowledge, Cultural and Artistic heritage and expression. In doing so, we recognise that the rights of First Nations peoples to self determination and sovereignty.

Overview

AASA vision

Recognising committee members

Committee Meetings 2024

Communication subcommittee 2024

Animail 2024

AASA Updates 2024

Val Plumwood Lecture and Workshop

Book Launch

Conference 2025 subcommittee

Conference 2025 Art subcommittee

Indigenous engagement
subcommittee 2024

Siobhan O'Sullivan Prizes policy
development 2024

AASA Constitutional work

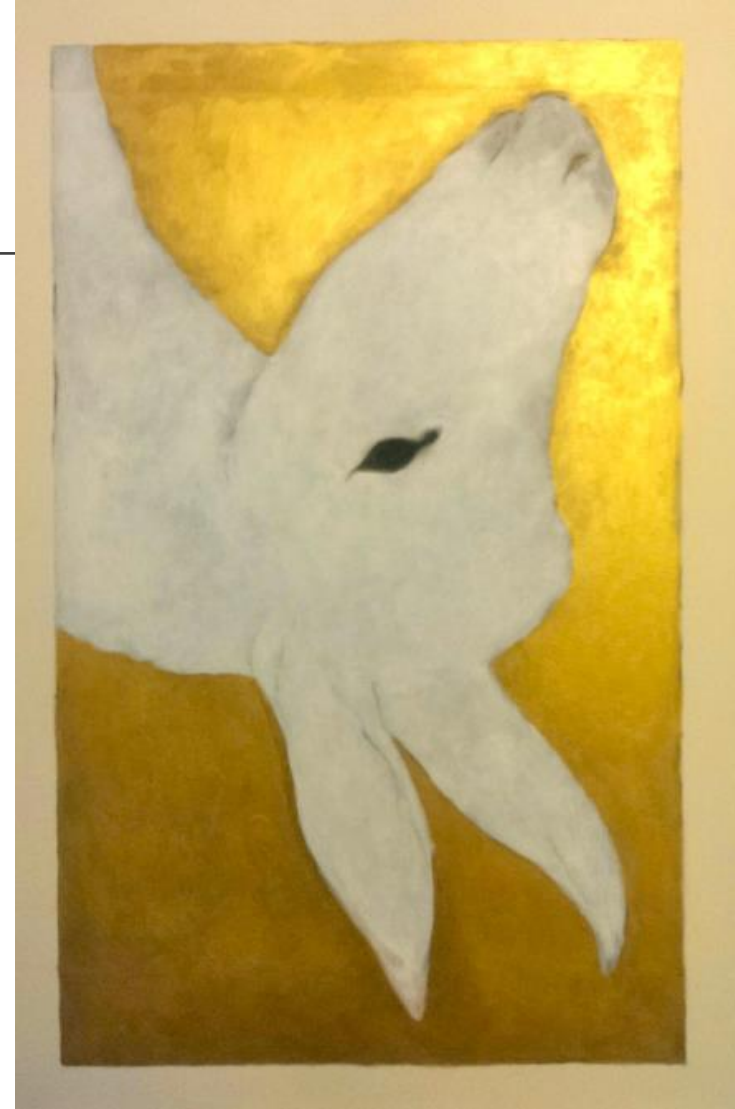
Finance summary 2024

Website 2025

Thanks and goodbye from me

Election of 2025 members

Artwork credit: Bonita Harris





AASA vision

For animals and their relationships with humans and environments to be at the forefront of humane and rigorous scholarly, scientific and artistic enquiry. And for this cross-disciplinary intellectual and creative work to inform and influence the treatment and understanding of animals in national, state and local educational institutions, industries and decision-making forums.

Artwork credit: Rod Mcrae

Recognising the work of committee members and others involved in the operations of AASA

AASA committee members are unpaid, with the work undertaken in a voluntary capacity. At the same time, much expertise is drawn on, and time invested. Committee members have worked so well together managing the demands made of them.

Beyond the whole committee meetings, there have also been several subcommittees and much development work undertaken. Consultation has been at a premium with hundreds of emails, many phone calls and several explanatory documents.

Specialist contributors related to Animail, AASA newsletter and the AASA website receive small tokens of what the work would ordinarily be paid.

Artwork credit: Claude Jones Hare Brain





Committee meetings 2024

Every 2 months for an hour by zoom

Chantelle Bayes pictured left is our secretary who sends out invitation to meet, agenda and minutes from previous meeting, and any special documents attached

On average 9 people from 14 members attended.

Communications subcommittee

Laura and Emily (and others) are in charge of communications and keep AASA committee and wider members abreast of important communication. Updating contents of AASA website is also part of the role.

AASA's Facebook page maintains popularity with over 1300 Followers.

AASA YouTube was launched in 2023 to showcase sessions from the 2023 AASA Conference: Animal Cultures. In 2024 we also added our Val Plumwood Lecture featuring Dr Erika Cudworth and the book launch of Human-Animal Relationships in Times of

Pictured right: Laura Jean Mckay, communications subcommittee lead



Communications subcommittee

AASA established a Twitter account in November 2020 as @AASA_Animals. As of 19 November 2024 we had 1,126 followers.

In November 2024, AASA also joined Bluesky as @animalstudies.bsky.social and attracted 400 followers in two weeks. Bluesky is a new, decentralised platform attracting academics, activists and others engaged in animal studies.

Pictured right: Emily Major





Animail 2024

Beautifully crafted publication put out 3xs a year with great artwork and lots of people and their work highlighted, often through interviews with Dinesh Wadiwel.

Ondine Sherman pictured left is responsible for Animail.

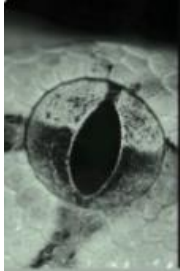


AASA Updates 2024

Very smart looking publication that comes out most fortnights with lots of announcements and useful information about new publications, conferences.

Natalie Lis, pictured left is responsible for this work.

Val Plumwood Lecture and Workshop 2024

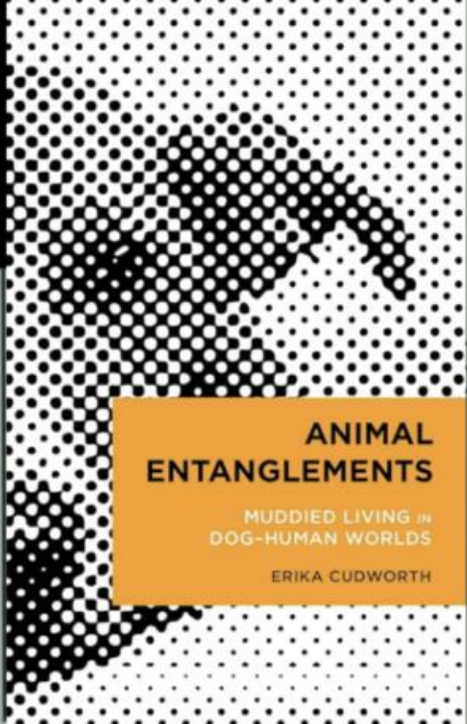


AASA
Australasian Animal Studies Association

Oct 28
2024
6pm-7pm
AEST

**SOCIAL LIVES WITH ANIMALS:
DOMINATION,
INTERSECTIONALITY &
HETEROTOPIA**

Dr Erika Cudworth
De Montfort University



**ANIMAL
ENTANGLEMENTS**
MUDDIED LIVING IN
DOG-HUMAN WORLDS
ERIKA CUDWORTH

2024 Val Plumwood Lecture

Book Launch

Josephine Browne, pictured right, initiated this book launch on Nov 1st 2024.

Many contributors from this book are AASA committee members

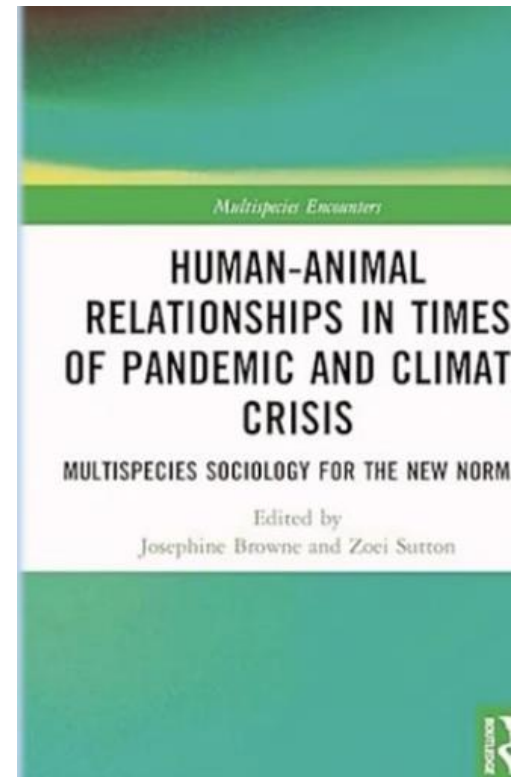
Pandemic and Climate Crisis edited by committee members Dr. Josephine Browne and Dr. Zoie Sutton.

https://www.youtube.com/@AASA_Animals



VIRTUAL BOOKLAUNCH – Nov. 1

Human-Animal Relationships in Times of Pandemic and Climate Crisis: Multispecies Sociology for the New Normal





Conference 2025 subcommittee

The 2025 conference will take place at the University of Southern Queensland's beautiful Toowoomba campus.

Nov 5-7th 2025

The Conference will offer a vibrant setting for conversations, projects, debates, speculative futures, with the aim of identifying cross disciplinary synergies, and integrate First Nations knowledge in the interests of other species and the more than human world.

Pictured left is Rebecca Scollen, leader of the 2025 conference subcommittee.

The 2025 AASA theme

Centering Animals Across the Disciplines

This theme asks us to pause, reorientate, and engage our imagination, intellect, and practice to place non-human animals at the centre.

Arwork credit: Christine Niblock





Conference 2025 Art subcommittee

The conference subcommittee is keen to ensure there is space and attention given to artists. This is especially important given the conference is being hosted by Rebecca Scollen and colleagues from USC Creative Arts.

Ferdinand Do Campo is pictured left. He is central to the art subcommittee work, including new collaborators.

SoCA Gallery for conference art exhibit

Accessibility:

The SoCA Gallery is a ground level venue with access for wheelchair users. The approach is paved, with kerb cuts to access the venue entrance.

The nearest accessible parking is located at the North end of Parking 1A

An accessible bathroom is located onsite Please feel free to contact us at Creativearts@unisq.edu.au with any accessibility requirements you may have so that we can assist.

General Dimensions:

The space is nominally 21.5m by 8.5m with various elements protruding into the space.

The ceiling height varies between 2.55m and 2.63m

Display walls are located at the outer perimeter, interrupted by glazing and other venue features, as well as nine fixed, 'freestanding' display walls located at the nominal centre of the space.

Please see the venue floorplan for further details



Indigenous engagement subcommittee

Included in AASA's 2025 call for conference papers:

Many First Nations perspectives respect non-humans as part of an interconnected multi-being world. It is important to note First Nations perspective continue to evolve, as featured in the work of scholars, artists and advocates. Some of these perspectives were featured in AASA's 2019 groundbreaking Decolonising Animals conference theme.

Philip Mckibbin, active in the Indigenous subcommittee is pictured left.



Siobhan O'Sullivan Bequeath and Prizes policy development 2024

Background and guidelines explained in documents 28/8/24 Dinesh Wadiwel, pictured left.

The committee decided that,

1. AASA invest AUD \$38,836.96 – the bequest from the estate of Siobhan O'Sullivan – in a 12 month term deposit with Bendigo Bank.
2. AASA establish a dedicated webpage to advertise the Journal Article by an Early Career Researcher Prize, the AASA Popular Communication of Animals Studies Prize and The Siobhan O'Sullivan Book Prize. Aside from providing information on the prizes and previous winners, this page would include historical information on Siobhan O'Sullivan.

Activity fund subcommittee awarding of prizes

A portal was established for the submission of activity grant applications. The subcommittee then met to clarify the eligibility criteria and method for ranking applicants.

Most applicants were awarded small grants.

All applicants were informed of the decision and given detailed feedback collated by Zoi from the subcommittee meetings.

Zoi Sutton, pictured right, took the lead on this subcommittee and engaged in much developmental work in the process.



Activity fund future recommendations

Recommendations for next year:

1. A clear emphasis of the Activity Fund is benefit for the wider animal studies community. It was suggested that in future AASA might want to add a stipulation that all successful grant recipients give a short presentation on their activity to the AASA community so that any outcomes or learnings might be transmitted broadly to the animal studies community.
2. The Committee may wish to consider its approach to funding individual activities (such as conference attendance) and research projects. While the committee this year made a decision to fund one of the two proposed research projects based on its innovation, they are conscious that funding research projects opens up a door that is perhaps not in line with the intent of the activity fund.

Alexandra McEwan, active member in this and other AASA subcommittees, is pictured right.





Website 2025

We need to transition our website over to a new provider. Plans are underway to assess the best way forward.

Ant McKenna, website developer is pictured left.



Finance summary

For the year ending 30 June 2024, AASA reported an operating profit of \$48,997.85, compared to an operating profit of \$4,270.09 for the year ending 30 June 2023. This increase in operating profit in the 2024 financial year relates primarily to an increase in income through a bequest received of \$38,836.96, and surplus funds from the AASA conference.

Total assets as at 30 June 2024 comprised cash at bank of \$66,441.22, consisting of cash held in Bendigo Bank \$66,230.42 and Paypal Account \$210.80.

Cash held at Bendigo Bank includes the bequest of \$38,836.96.

Lisa Powell, AASA treasurer is pictured left. She prepared the finance report and has been managing memberships.

Managing AASA membership in the future

We have set up PayPal to receive payments, and it is useful to maintain this link on a webpage.

Previously we got people to direct deposit, however this was time consuming, and also limited our capacity with international members.

We have now many members from overseas, so we should maintain our PayPal capacity.

- There is the bigger question about whether we want to maintain member profiles or not as we move to a new site. We currently offer a service that we host a member page for each member. This is a great service, particularly for HDRs and ECRs who may not have a webpage at a university.
- However, it takes a degree of work and maintenance to set these up and update them. I am personally of the view that we should consider dropping this given our capacity issues, but it would be good to think about this together, including whether there is somebody willing to be more involved in managing membership stuff (which might make the web management side of this easier to contemplate).

Thanks and
goodbye from
me



Election of 2025 members



Appendix B - Treasurer Report

AASA Treasurer’s Report 2023/24

I am pleased to present the 2023/24 Treasurer’s Report for the Australasian Animal Studies Association, noting I commenced the role of Treasurer in June 2024.

Financial Overview

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Dr Lisa Powell CPA, CA

AASA Treasurer

August 2024

Financial Statements

Australasian Animal Studies Association

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024

	2023 (A\$)	2024 (A\$)
Cash at Bank:		
Bendigo Bank	\$17,250.48	\$66,230.42
Paypal Account	\$192.89	\$210.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,443.37	\$66,441.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0	\$0
Funds		
Beginning Balance	\$13,173.28	\$17,443.37
Operating Surplus	\$4,270.09	\$48,997.85
TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS	\$17,443.37	\$66,441.22

Australasian Animal Studies Association
Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024

Income	A\$
Membership fees x 132	6,461.50
Conference income	37,384.00
APSA income	1,050.00
Prize income	1,201.39
Bequest	38,836.96
Total Income	<u>\$84,933.85</u>
Expenses	
Activity fund allocations	805.00
Bank fees	523.64
Conference expenses	32,448.93
APSA expenses	339.70
Prize expenses	1,128.73
Honoraria (AASA updates and Animail)	600.00
Website hosting	90.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$35,936.00</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>\$48,997.85</u>