

## **Launch of the Human Rights and Animal Ethics (HRAE) Research Network**

### **University of Melbourne**

#### **On Friday March 15 the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG will launch the University of Melbourne's Human Rights and Animal Ethics Research Network.**

Starting at 4.00pm, Michael Kirby will be joined by Prof. Barbara Creed (HRAE coordinator), Prof. Mark Considine (Dean of Arts), Dr. Alasdair Cochrane (Sheffield University) and Jenny Grey (CEO of Zoos Victoria) to launch this exciting new research initiative.

Please join us for this important event.

**Date:** Friday March 15, 2013

**Time:** 4.00pm – 6.00pm. Arrive at 4.00pm for cocktails and canapés. The formal proceedings will commence at 4.20pm.

**Location:** University House at the Woodward, Level 10, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street Carlton

**RSVP:** By Friday March 8 to Katharina Bonzel at [bonzelk@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bonzelk@unimelb.edu.au).

#### **Information about HRAE:**

The HRAE Research Network is committed to adopting a leadership and research role in the new global field of Human/Animal Studies (HAS), which has come to international prominence in the past decade, particularly in Universities throughout the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. In recent years a number of Australian Universities have begun to offer human/animal studies in their curricula. HRAE's distinctive focus is on the common exploitation and interrelated sufferings and oppressions of human and non-human animals. Throughout history the exploitation of animals has been intimately related to the exploitation of other oppressed groups including the poor, women and people of colour. Central to the Network's research goals is the belief that the oppression of both humans and other animals is intimately connected and must be addressed jointly in the global struggle for social justice for human and other animals.

HRAE will conduct research into the educational, legal, social and cultural transformations taking place globally in response to the most recent scientific and ecological findings concerning human/animal studies. The following topics are of central importance: the common evolutionary history of human and non-human animals; increasing evidence for the shared identities (physiological, cultural, emotional, ethical) of human and other animals; the interrelationship of human and animal exploitation; the mutual rights of human and other animals; the consequences for humanity and the planet of species extinction; and the importance of well-being for all species. Hence HRAE's research trajectory is interdisciplinary with a focus on legal studies, politics, philosophy, gender studies, cultural studies, science and the arts.

For further information about human/animal studies at the University of Melbourne contact Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan at: [siobhano@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:siobhano@unimelb.edu.au)