## ‘Veganism: A Transformation of Culture’ Proposal for Earth Ethics Conference

Scott Wallace (Independent)

***Conference Focus Areas Relevant to this Proposal:***

* Earth-Centred Ethics and Philosophy
* Faith, eco-spirituality and eco-theology
* Environmental Education
* Environmental Psychology

***Type of Participation Proposed:***

***I invisage a presentation/lecture with Q+A/Discussion, but whatever is considered the most appropriate I suppose.***

* Discussion groups – 50 minutes OR
* Mini-Workshop - 25 minutes

**PROPOSAL ABSTRACT**

Currently, our western governance systems, laws and culture reflects an anthropocentric and speciesist system of exploitation and use of Non-human animals. Our relationship with members of the Earth Community has been paradoxical, with utmost love and respect on one hand for companion animals to a destructive disregard and denial of the rights of others. Inspiring Earth Ethics requires an understanding of the way things are, critically evaluating and assessing that and then effecting substantial shifts in policy and culture to establish a new value system. These difficult questions need to be asked, do we want to maintain a culture which revolves around exploitation? Is this the best way forward? Veganism is the doctrine that people should live without the exploitation of animals (unless out of necessity), and advocates for non-violence, compassion and respect towards ourselves, others, and all members of the Earth Community. Veganism can provide consistency between the core values that many people already hold and their actions. This presentation aims to educate people about veganism, the potential of this ideological minority to play a significant role in a transformation of culture to reflect an Earth Ethics approach.   
  
Content Points

* Current system of governance, laws and economies- What are the underlying values, beliefs, concepts and theories that underpin our system. ( Anthropocentrism, Carnism etc)
* Highlight the current nature of our relationships with non-human animals (as companions, food,’property’, in the wild etc)
* The impact of our use of animals – Environmental effects (Animal Agriculture Industry) – Health – Effect on animals themselves etc
* What values, beliefs, concepts and theories could we replace the old ones with (eco-centred governance, non-speciesism, Rights of Nature etc
* What is Veganism? (Core philosophies)
* How these principles and ideas match up with respecting all members of the Earth Community, and their right to thrive, live and evolve

# BIOGRAPHY

Bachelor of Science with Honours in Marine Ecology from Griffith University. Currently studying LLB (Environmental Law) at Griffith University where I’ve taken an interest in the emerging legal philosophy of Earth Jurisprudence. Works for University of Queensland at Moreton Bay Research Station as an educator for science camps. Passion for advocacy and activism in areas of veganism, animal rights and marine conservation (Volunteer with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society & AELA ☺) Selected to attend the 2013 Global Voices – Nairobi Study Tour on Sustainable Development which brought him to the UN Head Office in Nairobi. On a journey to help people connect with and experience the intrinsic value that natural environments possess.