

October 2014



Australian Landcare International (**ALI**) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to assist other countries to manage their natural resources using a Landcare approach.

President's Note

International Landcare remains an exciting, diverse and fruitful, but still under-exploited, arena.

Looking back, ALI has been busy with progress in Tonga and Fiji, thanks to Bob Edgar and Horrie Poussard; the pioneering Java-Mindanao Landcare farmer-to-farmer exchange, with funding from Crawford; the continuing evolution of Japan Landcare; consolidation in Africa via a master class in Malawi and great work by Clinton Muller with ICRAF in Nairobi, and now Addis Ababa (Clinton also sustains IL – International Landcare – with its occasional teleconferences); continuing liaison with NZ Landcare Trust, Hanover Trust (Wolverhampton/Jamaica), US Landcare, Sonar + Verde project in Cartagena, Colombia and Charles Sturt University's Dr Jo Millar (Laos, Sumatra, Japan); visits to Canberra to promote

Landcare with Crawford, DFAT, DAFF and ACIAR; and development of the Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) – first projects (generally \$500) in DRC, Nigeria, Tanzania (2), Sri Lanka, the Philippines (2), Indonesia, Fiji, Tonga, Laos – supported by Bankmecu – with funds from individuals and Landcare groups.

Naturally there have also been speaking engagements, especially with Rotary, numerous other networking exercises, lobbying, correspondence and submissions; and website management with Susanna Duffy and Bark Media.

Finally, I was much involved in two recent Landcare conferences in September - Australia's in Melbourne and South Africa's in Durban where they spell it 'LandCare',

Victorians with long memories will recognize that. The Australian conference in Melbourne included a crowd-funding platform announcement with NSW Landcare Inc., ALI and Pozible'. I also gave a paper on ALI's OLF. At Durban I presented a paper on Australian Landcare networks within a workshop (they call them 'commissions') on community action that I helped run.

The South Africans do conferences well, giving commissions real authority (delegates left with the commissions' findings saved on memory sticks), with terrific exposure for Junior Landcare, an analysis of each excursion with lessons to be learnt, and an uninhibited awards ceremony, reminiscent of Rorkes Drift.

The main current problems I see for ALI are the slow uptake of OLF and the Pozible crowd-funding platform.

We will continue helping our Japanese colleagues and working on a range of projects in Laos, China, Bhutan, Lesotho and elsewhere, including possibly Timor Leste. We will investigate the 'Reverse Colombo Plan' to see if Landcare can participate, and renew efforts to engage African mining companies in Landcare. We will run a four-day Landcare training course at Montego Bay, Jamaica over Easter 2015. We will also continue planning a Philippines master class (in 2016?) to cover several SE Asian countries, and lobbying for government to contribute more to our cause, perhaps by funding an international Landcare bureau.

As I said in September, my sincere thanks to Horrie Poussard for outstanding managerial efficiency, and the ALI committee: Bruce Lloyd, Malachy Tarpey, Mary Johnson, Kaye Rodden, John Robinson and Bernie Wonder. Susanna Duffy has been a very helpful IT supporter. Dr Wendy Poussard, who accompanied Horrie to Tonga and Fiji is a valuable ally. We greatly value our relationships with SILC, bankmecu, St Kilda EcoCentre, Victorian Landcare Council, NSW Landcare Inc, National Landcare Network and Bark Media.

Rob Youl,
President, ALI

Can Landcare Help in PNG?

From a talk given by ALI member Dick McCarthy at the ALI AGM

Much has been written on Papua New Guinea - its history, its economy and its relevance to Australia. It is very much the land of the unexpected because it is a land of immense agricultural potential, a land of still untapped mineral wealth within an envelope of rugged terrain and unique cultural and linguistic diversity. And 97 % of it is traditionally owned.

At no time was PNG completely joined to South East Asia but it was joined to Australia until some 6000 years ago. As a result PNG shares many species of plants and animals (including marsupials) with Australia but not with Indonesia.



Acacia magnum plantations Golgol Valley ,Madang

Total population is estimated to be 6.5 million. By 2050 it is estimated the population will be 11.2 million. 80 % of the populations are subsistence farmers living within tribal or clan communities on traditional lands. Less than 15% of the working population holds a formal job.



Bulolo Valley Morobe Province

CUSTOMARY LANDOWNERS CARE FOR THEIR LANDS AND WATERS

- ***Land rights are sacrosanct***
- ***They assert inherited rights and responsibilities over their lands and waters***
- ***They do not need to physically live on their lands or waters to do this***
- ***They are born to their lands; live for their lands and die for their lands; retire to their lands and desire to be buried on their lands.***

Given the complexity of customary land ownership, how can the Australian Landcare model of land management assist customary landowners?

Over time, country wide extension programs have been severely reduced due to budgetary requirements. This has resulted in only a few agricultural and forestry research stations/extension nurseries continuing to operate. The cumulative result of these reductions has been the loss of skilled personnel in nursery practices to generate food and tree crop planting materials.



Department of Agriculture extension nursery.

It is into this vacuum that the Australian Landcare Model could assist by the development of specialised training programs for nursery personnel in conjunction with the key natural resource government departments of Agriculture and

Forestry (utilising their out stations) connected with in-service training programs for rural school teachers.

An example of what could be envisaged was addressed in a program “National School Nursery Project 2005” developed by the National Capital Botanical Gardens; the PNG Forest Industries Association; The Department of Environment and Conservation; Galley Reach Holdings; University of Papua New Guinea and Port Moresby Rotary Club.

The aim of this program was the development of planting materials for customary landowners to plant on their lands through school nursery programs. In conjunction with this training was the establishment of community gardens displaying the various type of food, tree crops and medicinal planting materials which could be made available.

The Rotary model of “Trees for Survival” provided the materials for establishing nurseries at each school.

Pozible projects hit the internet

Crowd funding – a new way to attract public support for projects – is now being used to fund Landcare and environment projects across the world. Landcare NSW joined forces with the National Landcare Network and ALI to put together the initial collection of projects on the *Pozible.com.au* website. ALI sourced the initial 9 international projects presented

In June 2014 Pozible launched the new ***Environment*** category– the 21st category - on their website. Other categories include writing, performance, music, design, film and social enterprise. Being on the web, donors from around the world can support projects they like with small or larger donations. A target is set and if not reached, donors get their money back. However if the target is reached then projects have found a new way to get financial backing. The international projects came from NZ, Asia, Africa, North and South America.

Some involved Landcare groups that we have been supporting in one way or another. Others were new environmental projects.



Concrete sump built for animal waste in Indonesia

Our Indonesian Landcare friends near Mt Merapi put up a project called the “Poo Bank” to turn animal manures into fertilizer. Farmer education was a project from Landcare Bangladesh. Two projects came from Palawan in the Philippines and a fish ladder project from New Zealand Landcare. Schools environmental education was featured in a project from Colombia while in California an artist was promoting the importance of bees to the world. Conservation of habitat for monkeys (Nigerian Landcare) and lemurs (Madagascar) make up the nine projects.

We are already learning lessons from this initial foray into a new area of project funding. Basically you need to get people to actually look at the website and then attract them to donate. Social media plays a great part in the process, along with an attractive story well presented.

Check the website (Pozible.com.au/landcare) and, if there is still time, look at a possible project to support.

Potter Farmland Plan and Landcare books now available on web.

Professor Andrew Campbell has generously made his out-of-print books on the Potter Farmland Plan and Landcare freely downloadable as pdfs from the CDU library:

<https://espace.cdu.edu.au/view/cdu:40101>
(Landcare) and
<https://espace.cdu.edu.au/view/cdu:40102>
(Potter).

Developments within the Uganda Landcare Network

Positive developments are underway to support scaling up a National Landcare Network in Uganda, with an interim leadership committee recently formed. The committee, chaired by Dr Francis Byekwaso from the National Agriculture Advisory Service (NAADS), also includes champion Landcare facilitators from districts with existing Landcare programs in place, including Dr Joy Tukahirwa from Kabale, Mr. Mathias Wakulira representing Masaka and Mr. Awadh Chemangei from Kapchorwa District.



Some of the signage displayed at Butale Mixed Primary School, Uganda reinforcing messages of the Junior Landcare program

The team is charged with the responsibility of steering the activities of the network, including mobilising and engaging with key

potential stakeholders and partners to fast-track the platform to achieve increased visibility of Landcare efforts within the country

These promising developments come after recent global recognition of the achievements of the grassroots initiatives through Landcare in Uganda, including the Africa Landcare Achievement Award for Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter.

From Landcare International E-News.

Update on ACIAR Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project

By Mary Johnson and Noel Volk (ALI members)

The ACIAR Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project in the southern Philippines has enjoyed a successful first year. The project is focused on developing an improved model for agricultural extension in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.

The project team comprises staff from the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines (LFPI), University of the Philippines Los Banos, University of the Philippines Mindanao, and RMIT University'.

The first year saw the appointment of six community facilitators under LFPI deployed in three sites – Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao and South Cotabato – with support for the facilitators being provided through specialist advisers within the project team.

Following a major planning meeting at the beginning of the year, the six facilitators conducted a baseline survey involving 185 farmers over the three sites. The survey revealed important information on human capital (skills and knowledge), financial capital (financial resources that farmers can use to achieve their livelihood objectives), social capital (group memberships, networks, the ability to work together and informal safety nets) and livelihood context and strategies.



The six project community facilitators undergoing training at LFPI's Scott Graham Landcare Complex in Claveria

Armed with the results of the survey, the project team, in conjunction with the farmers and local institutions, have planned a range of activities to improve farmer livelihoods and extension services.

From Landcare International E-News.

Overseas Landcare Fund

ALI's Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) continues to attract funds from local Landcare groups which enables it to offer grants to projects in developing countries. Recently three projects have been given \$500 grants in Fiji, two for the Naselesele Food security Group on the island of Taveuni. The first project is to build a shade house to grow vegetable seedlings for the group. The second is to plant specific native tree seedlings to improve the bee population and honey production locally. Aussie Jo Dean is coordinating the projects funded by donations from the Boorabool Hills Landcare Group. The third project in Fiji is to the Nagoda primary school, at the top of the Sabeto Catchment near Nadi, to provide gardening tools to students to tend new food gardens. The principal Meli Cabebula aims to get students to understand the importance and techniques for local vegetable growing so they will contribute to the village food production when they are teenagers in a few years' time. The Home Creek/Spring

Creek Landcare Group in NE Victoria donated the grant funds.



Improved planting and crop management will help Tanzanian women farmers.

Hellen Bradburn is using her project grant (donated by the Merton Landcare Group) to assist her women farmer group in Arusha, Tanzania, with training workshops on maize growing and legume cropping to improve food production for both home eating and market selling.

She had an earlier grant last year (raised by a Port Phillip EcoCentre activity) to fund tree planting by school students in Arusha.

Finally we have recently funded, in a joint operation with the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN), the Barrabool Hills Landcare group and private donors, a major project in Kabale, Uganda. It is a combination of replanting key environmental areas (Green Environmental Program) with on-going training and monitoring of farmers involved with agroforestry in the area. OAN members last year carried out an agroforestry workshop in Uganda.

We are always looking for Landcare groups, Landcare Networks, corporate and private donors to continue to support the OLF by

donations to assist with projects like those listed above.

Donations can be sent to ALI at 32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East Vic 3183 or by EFT to ALI's account at Bendigo Bank, BSB:6330 Acct 1331 03598. Either Rob Youl (President) or Horrie Poussard (Sec.) can provide further information on the OLF.

ALI Annual Meeting

In September 5th, ALI held its 6th Annual Meeting and the President (Rob Youl) and Sec/Treasurer(Horrie Poussard) were re-elected, along with a committee of *Mary Johnson, Kaye Rodden, Bruce Lloyd, Bernie Wonder, John Robinson, Malachy Tarpey* , and *Liz de Jong*..

Dick McCarthy gave a talk on PNG land management and cultural issues and the opportunities for Landcare to take a role in its development (see earlier article). Rob Youl listed a wide range of activities ALI had initiated or were involved with both in Australia or overseas. Of particular interest were:

- funding by the Crawford Fund of two major projects in Tonga and the Philippines,
- the development of the Overseas Landcare Fund,
- supporting Prof Mick Seigal and his team in Nagoya, Japan, to promote Landcare there,
- participation in Landcare Master Classes in Malawi as part of our on-going support for African Landcare
- continuing links with Landcare International through teleconferencing and with Clinton Muller
- work with Landcare NSW on developing the crowd funding platform with Pozible for supporting international projects
- continuing discussions with organisations in Australia and overseas on Landcare issues

- growing membership in ALI following a reduction in fees and free membership for students and under 25s. It is also good to see that we have several new student members from universities – Melbourne and Charles Sturt. Hopefully more will sign up.

For both memberships and donations to the OLF, personal contact is vital. Rob urged members to ask their friends and their Landcare groups to sign up.

The Treasurer reported that income for the year was \$23 300 and expenditures of \$15 200. Most of this was project funds, with more of the carryover to be used to complete projects in 2014-15.

South African Landcare Conference by Malachy Tarpey

Rob Youl and I recently attended South Africa's 6th Biennial National Landcare Conference in September in Durban. The theme of the conference was **"Landcare –restoring sustainable livelihoods for all"**.

This year's conference provided a platform to showcase strategies to address land degradation challenges facing South Africa and enabled delegates to find solutions to those challenges. Emphasis was placed on conforming with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in response to the September 2011 call by the UN General Assembly for zero net land degradation and in preparation for the Rio+20 conference.

Landcare in South Africa is primarily run as an extension program by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The conference was attended by government officials, professionals from the agriculture and forestry sectors, farmers and community leaders. The focus was on food security and sustainable livelihood issues, rather than conservation or biodiversity.

All of the break-out sessions (called commissions) were run with the intention of creating a series of resolutions which were

summarized and presented back to the delegates in the main plenary session on the final day. Field trips were also reported on so that everyone in attendance was provided with learning opportunities.

Junior Landcare thrives in South Africa and many school children attended the conference. Some delivered inspiring monologues about the importance of Landcare.



Rob and I met with delegates from the African Landcare Network, some of whom manage projects that have received sponsorship from the Overseas Landcare Fund. Representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and South Africa were there. We were fortunate to attend presentations by Mathias Wakulira and Awadh Chemangei from Uganda, who were awarded the Africa Landcare Achievement Award at a memorable awards dinner.



OLF fund recipient, Patrick Kaka representing GIERI from the Democratic Republic of Congo

was awarded the Emerging Landcare in Africa Award.

Talking with ALN delegates in person, I gained a better understanding of the work being done in those countries. I also discussed project proposals for possible future partnerships that ALI might facilitate with Australian Landcare groups via the Overseas Landcare Fund.



Overall, Rob and I thought it was very inspiring to see the enthusiasm generated for the Landcare movement by South Africans. They are looking forward to returning in two years' time for the next conference with another delegation from Australia. ALI members interested in travelling to Cape Town in 2016 should contact Rob Youl for more information.

Floods in Congo Landcare area From Clinton Muller, Landcare ICRAF

Severe flooding occurred on Tuesday 28th Oct in the DR Congo very close to where our Overseas Landcare Fund recipient Patrick Kaka was planning to start work this weekend. Patrick sent details including:
150 dead and 200 missing, 775 acres of fields destroyed. The UN and Red Cross are assisting with the rescue effort.

The flooding has hit a community who are trying to mobilize themselves through Landcare to manage their natural resources, despite working in an area with extreme in-security. To give some context, war and refugees have afflicted the area. Population explosion has led to deforestation and exploitation of the wood products and subsequently the land is cleared

and degraded – exacerbating the impact of these recent rains.



We were very fortunate to meet Patrick just a few weeks ago in South Africa, where he won the Emerging Landcare in Africa Award.

ALI Committee 2014-15

President:

Rob Youl robmyoul@gmail.com

Sec/Treas.

Horrie Poussard poussard@inet.net.au

Committee

Bruce Lloyd *Northern Victoria*

Kaye Rodden *VLC*

John Robinson *Vic DEPI*

Mary Johnson *Vic Western District*

Liz de Jong *Melbourne*

Malachy Tarpey *Vic East Gippsland*

Bernie Wonder *NSW South Coast*

Become a member of ALI .Your membership helps ALI keep up with what is happening globally and supports our website and other office costs.

Annual Membership

Student or under 25 ***Free***
Individual ***\$20***
Landcare or community group ***\$40***

The Benefits of ALI membership

- Using your Landcare experience to assist overseas groups
- Overseas contacts for future travel
- Developing links with possible sister groups overseas
- Being part of a world-wide movement for land, biodiversity and community improvement
- Regular e-newsletter on overseas Landcare developments

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Name/Group

Address.....**P/C**

Email

Interested in volunteering some time? Yes We
need help with admin, publications, PR, etc.

Type of membership (x) : student or <25 Individual.... Group

Return with cheque (where required) to:

Treasurer ALI:
32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East 3183 Vic , Australia

Or direct Bank Transfer to Bendigo Bank

Acct: Australian Landcare International. BSB 633-000 Acct 1331 03598

And send details to treasurer@alci.com.au

Website: www.alci.com.au