

Australian Landcare International Newsletter



March 2013



Australian Landcare International (**ALI**) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to assist other countries to take up Landcare ideas. **ALI does not normally provide funds for overseas projects – this is left to various aid organisations**

President's Note

There are so many strands these days to international Landcare, I'm rather excited as I write these notes. Moving from tangibles to possibilities:

Victorian Landcare. I've written to Carrie Tiffany thanking her for the superb last issue on global activities.

The Philippines and Japan. Prof Mick Seigel reports that the 2-3 week visit to Mindanao in February by a group of Luzon farmers, which he organised, went very well. Much more than that: Prof Seigel advises that himself, Professor Toshio Kuwako from Tokyo Institute of Technology's Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology and several associates have launched Secretariat to Promote the Establishment of Landcare in Japan. Vice-chairperson, Tomomi Maekawa, will arrive in Australia in May this year to study Landcare at Charles Sturt University, Albury, as part of her PhD, which is designed to help the new movement get under way. Professor Allan Curtis will supervise Tomomi's studies. We'll run an induction for her in Melbourne and hinterland and get her to Albury.

Tonga Tapu Landcare. Work continues on gardens, poultry and fencing projects

via Tonga's Community Development Trust. Bob Edgar and Horrie Poussard will run a Landcare training course in Tonga, with Crawford Fund support, from 20-31 May. NZ Landcare are interested in the outcome

Canberra discussions. Bernie Wonder, Horrie Poussard, Bruce Lloyd and myself will be in Canberra from 3-4 April to run a workshop at ACIAR and meet AusAID and DAFF staff.

Small projects fund. Ben Roberts, former co-ordinator, Heytesbury Landcare Network, worked last year as a volunteer in Ecuador. He rang to see how he might raise \$1000 to extend a community nursery in Bahia de Caraquez, a landslip-prone coastal city. My first option (the others are irrelevant here) was for Ben to approach his old Landcare group. He did and was granted \$1000, which was more than enough for the job – so far does the Australian dollar go in many countries.

ALI is currently working with Landcare Victoria Inc (formerly Victorian Landcare Council) to launch a fund-raising venture that will enable us to finance small projects like Ben's, but for now up to \$500. Watch this space.

Crawford 2013 Conference, Perth. Crawford's Australia-Africa Research

Forum in Perth on 27-28 August is entitled *Mining, Agriculture and Development*. ALI plans to participate and hopes to facilitate attendance by leaders in the African Landcare Network.

Jamaica. Prof Mike Fullen of Wolverhampton University reports that he and others have decided to start Landcare in Jamaica. We know little more than this, but the project is named Hanover, possibly after a Jamaican community. (Note: AusAID has project connections in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.)

Timor-Leste. South Gippsland coordinator and Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD), Kathleen Bartlett, goes to Dili soon to run a program encouraging schools to develop and manage vegetable gardens to help feed students. As this is something South Africans do well through Junior Landcare, I've given her several contacts in Africa and elsewhere, including Bob Edgar. As we've said before, AYAD and Landcare work well together. (Clinton Muller and Mieke Bourne in Nairobi are both AYADs.)

Future master classes. Dennis Garrity advises that plans are under way for a master class in RSA – date unknown.

Thailand. Julian Prior and Karen Brisbane spoke at an APEC conference in NE Thailand last November. Julian believes that the Thais are interested in Landcare, but want guidance as to what to do next. I've undertaken to investigate the possibility of ALI fostering a regional training course on basic Landcare management – not unlike the one Horrie and Bob will run in Tonga. (Conceptually, it might also involve Burma [Julian works there regularly], Laos, Cambodia and northern Malaysia).

Anzac Centenary 2015. Mary Johnson and I met DAFF NRM's Garry Reynolds last year to suggest Landcare projects in

Turkey, Australia and NZ to mark the occasion. I wrote a small paper on ALI's behalf. Garry Reynolds reports that CVA Ballarat is now responsible for Anzac projects – so I've contacted that office. Tamar NRM, led by Ian Sauer, is also very interested in Anzac projects.

Nigeria. I continue to try to help Ikponke Nkanta raise funds for his work re-creating habitat for the *nsombo ebok*, Sclater's guenon, Nigeria's only endemic primate.



Tanzania. Melbourne academic Prof Ernest Mdogo and I have been working on proposals to assist Tanzanian forestry bodies. Meanwhile Rowan Reid and others, including Andrew Stewart, are running a Master Treegrowers course in Africa in May-June.

The Bureau. Perhaps the least tangible element is my quest to establish a bureau to promote international Landcare. We've decided the realistic approach is to build our credibility by doing several things well over the next twelve months: Tonga, Thailand, the small projects fund, Anzac, Japan, the Perth conference.

Meetings. We're adhering to the concept of alternate management and open meetings with guest speakers. The next one will be at St Kilda EcoCentre on Friday 3 May 2013.

Rob Youl,
President, ALI

Master Tree Growing training

January 2013



Participants and supporters of the first African Master TreeGrower course

We have seen the successful application of Australia's Landcare model in Australia and developing countries, and the Crawford Fund has supported Landcare training over the years, most recently in Africa. Now, a group of Australians are looking at applying linked Australian idea to suit the needs, aspirations and opportunities facing farmers and foresters across Africa with Master Tree growing training.

The Crawford Fund supported a visit to Australia by five African farmers and two international aid workers for a master tree grower training course to improve farm forestry. For some of them, it was their very first trip overseas.

"The Australian Master TreeGrower (MTG) program provides education and extension support to Australian farmers growing trees for conservation and profit,"

said Jon Lambert, Chief Executive Officer of Beyond Subsistence, a non-profit group that provides forestry and agroforestry support to aid organisations.

Developed in 1996 by forester Rowan Reid through the University of Melbourne, the MTG program has delivered over 100 courses involving more than 2000 farmers across Australia. A number of independent reviews have concluded that the Australian MTG program is more than just a short course: it has changed the nature of farm forestry extension in Australia.

Rowan Reid was one of the members of the Crawford funded group that delivered the Landcare Master Class in Africa last year.

The Thai Experience

by Karen Brisbane

Thailand is a fascinating, hardworking and friendly place. I was fortunate in November 2012 to attend the APEC workshop in Chiang Mia and then toured Royal Projects in the northern part of Thailand with staff from the Land Development team.

2012 APEC workshop on Sustainable Agriculture in Chiang Mia covered 3 days and was attended by 13 countries with 123 attendees. Four Australians attended the workshop, one of whom Dr Julian Prior has included a report in this newsletter. The workshop was more like a conference with not much opportunity to talk about possibilities; however during the breaks and the evening we did talk about future possibilities and project similarities. At short notice I gave a paper on *Landcare Facilitation in Australia*. The presentation was well received with many questions afterwards on how Landcare works.

Royal projects have been set up by the King and their aim is to reduce soil

erosion, and improve water quality in farming in areas that were degraded and unproductive. They have revegetated the hill tops and gullies, chosen soil types for plant species and engaged the community to change practices using the economic benefits of the new practices, with support from the government. Farming to soil type has create niches to grow flowers, fruit trees, strawberries, grapes, lettuces and vegetables in general. Some farmers have started to farm pigs and chooks – which is yet to really take off in the hill areas (now mainly in the flatter country). As part of the community ethic they swap home grown vegetables at the local store for items they need (similar to a barter system). Something I think we should do more of in Australia.

Community members were given the option to be involved with the Royal Projects, although not all chose to do so. What surprised me was the difference it made to participating communities. New schools – all children been able to attend school and go onto further education. The new school facilities in villages generated commitment of students to go to school (even on a Saturday for a special visitor). The economics of the community naturally increased because they had a product that was been sort, and produce was sold to the Royal Foundation for packaging and selling on. This in turn created better housing, better services to the homes (running water and electricity), owned livestock and vehicles.

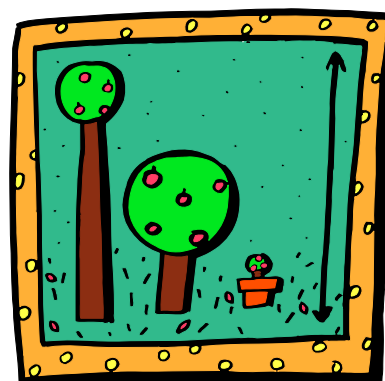
In one area farmers developed a co-op (for the want of a better word) and sell produce in large quantities to the Royal Foundation (packing and supply chain for vegetables). This created a larger market supply of vegetables and the co-op could sell to who they wished to for the highest price. The outcome - a two- storey school and homes made of solid wood structures with cement floors and tiled bathrooms. Most families appeared to have a vehicle of some sort as well. The shops had more

items for sale including toys, soft drinks and lollies – not common in some hill villages.

The **Soil Doctor Project** is a government initiative that trains a member of the community to analyse soil type and match them to the type of produce that can be grown in an area. This project could easily expand into other types of skills for individuals in the community similar to what community Landcare does in Australia, in conjunction with support from the government.

After discussions with Thailand officials it was thought that an exchange for farmers to come to Australia to a farm with similar produce type and climate would be good so Thailand farmers could see firsthand best management practices on a working farm.

The Thai government is keen to bring Landcare to the country in a larger way – they already have one Landcare project in the northern part of the country; from all reports is working well within the community so could easily be expanded into other villages and regions with guidance and support by the government.”



Landcare in Tonga – Update

The initial stage of the project in Popua village is coming to a close. This project has been funded through Foundation of Rotary International. As part of the project a number of residents have built shelters to protect the young chickens from predation by cats and dogs. The shelters have been built using steel and mesh bought using grant funds and supplement by local materials. Shelters are stocked with local chickens and it is planned to introduce improved meat genetics provided through a United Nations program.



Poultry shelter in Popua Village

Most gardens are currently under a crop of onions as other vegetables are difficult to grow satisfactorily during the wet season. However, the local tourist resorts serve as a good local market for onions particularly if they are grown without the use of organic fertilizers.

The self-help, participatory nature of the work in Popua has caught the attention of Rotary New Zealand who are currently negotiating with the New Zealand Government for funding for further work in Popua and to extend the project to include a further three villages. If the funding bid were successful the work would be undertaken as partnership between Rotary New Zealand and the Tonga Community Development Trust under the title of Tongatapu Landcare. Tongatapu is the main island in the Kingdom.

In addition the Crawford Funding has approved a grant for training for the

Popua community and representatives from other villages in Tongatapu. It is proposed hold the training in late May 2013. Horrie Poussard and Bob Edgar will be presenting the program based on the Landcare model. Staff from the Tonga Community Development Trust and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries will give additional input.

Horrie and Bob plan to involve the village school children in the singing of Landcare songs at the end of each training day and link the school to the "Landcare for Kids" syllabus material that was developed in Victoria in the early days of Landcare.

Further information contact Bob Edgar (ALI committee member) at

redgar@netspace.net.au

A Landcare Cuppa in Tamworth

ALI member John Tucker , based in Tamworth, is interested in marketing tea from Sri Lanka with a Landcare "flavour". ALI members have been working on this project in conjunction with Kamy Melvani, who runs *Neosynth* in Sri Lanka with community based projects that fall within the Landcare approach. Last year she and others started Lanka Landcare.

John will be injecting an international aspect into the Landcare display at the upcoming Harmony Day celebrations at Tamworth on March 23rd. He is hopeful he can make a few cups of Landcare Lanka tea and will try to get more ALI members.

Landcare for Japan

Landcare is now in Japan. How and why one of the most urbanised nations decided to introduce the concept is interesting.

Professor Mick Seigel of Nanzan Catholic University's Institute for Social Ethics, Nagoya, grew up on Australia's Murray River at Barooga, New South Wales. A Catholic priest, he has worked in Japan since 1973. Aware of the progress of Landcare in his home area since the late 1980s, he became convinced that the networking and partnership that characterise Australian Landcare would be of great value to Japan.

In the late 2000s, he decided to bring small groups of students to Australia as part of their environmental studies. Three tours later the route is well established: minibus from Sydney via Cowra to Canberra to meet national-level environmental policy-makers, then to Barooga to stay with members of Boomanoomana Landcare Group. The last leg, the journey to Melbourne and its airport, takes in Landcare projects around Broadford, 70 kilometres north of the city: restoring fire-damaged landscapes, major revegetation, community participation in environmental policy and practice at municipal level, innovative carbon management.

Along with a six-month sabbatical at home in 2011-12, this exposure to Landcare, and the students' positive reactions, alerted Professor Seigel to the possibility of initiating Landcare in Japan. He discussed this with another academic similarly interested in ecology, communities and consensus, Professor Toshio Kuwako. Professor Kuwako, from Tokyo Institute of Technology's Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology, has written on better management of communal land in his country. For the last five years he has directed a project entitled Development of

Techniques and Theories for the Integrated Restoration and Revitalisation of Local Commons. In this regard, he also runs a small research centre on Sado Island, off the west coast of Honshu.

The Japanese generally think that Australian Landcare's co-ordination, flexibility, networking, promotion, training and business partnerships provide useful models as they expand their Commons movement.

The two academics, with various contacts, have launched the ***Secretariat to Promote the Establishment of Landcare in Japan***. Vice-chairperson, Tomomi Maekawa, will arrive in Australia in May this year to study Landcare at Charles Sturt University, Albury, as part of her PhD, which is designed to help the new movement get under way. Well known Australian social researcher, Professor Allan Curtis, himself a landowner, group member and catchment management authority board member, will supervise Tomomi's studies.

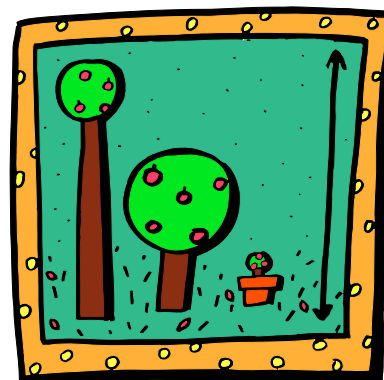
See Landcare Japan's first newsletter:

<http://landcarejapan.com/>. Another interesting document, which indicates

Japan and Australia share many challenges. See

<http://www.ristex.jp/EN/examin/env/index.html>

Rob Youl



Landcare Notes

Some years ago, Horrie Poussard put together a set of Landcare Notes about the non-technical aspects of Landcare - starting a group, planning, funding, evaluating, leadership, etc. Since then the Notes have been updated and still provide good guidance for the development of new Landcare groups and their ongoing development. While the notes addressed issues relevant to Australian Landcare groups, they may also be of value for encouraging and supporting Landcare group development in other countries. They can be found at <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/for-groups/notes/>

Founder of Grayson LandCare (USA) is a Purpose Prize fellow.

The Purpose Prize is USA's only large-scale investment in social entrepreneurs and other creative problem solvers in the second-half of life.

Dr. Jerry Moles was named a fellow because of his introduction of Landcare into South-western Virginia. Jerry has visited Australia on a number of occasions and is a firm friend of ALI. Through Landcare, a collaboration of farmers, landowners, and residents from Grayson, Carroll, Floyd and Ashe counties are working to develop local, sustainable, agricultural businesses.



Jerry Moles

“Purpose Prize fellows are using their passion and experience to help solve some of society’s steepest challenges,” said Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Encore.org and author of The Big Shift. “They represent a growing wave of people in their 60s and beyond who are using their knowhow to change the world, while shifting perceptions of what is possible in this stage of life.” The Purpose Prize program is funded by the John Templeton Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies. The Prize is awarded by Encore.org (the new name for Civic Ventures), a non-profit that promotes encore careers – work that is both personally meaningful and serves the greater good.

ALI Website

Have a look at the ALI website from time to time. We aim to update it regularly. www.australianlandcareinternational.com

Some websites of interest

The Crawford Fund
<http://www.crawfordfund.org/>

Landcare International
www.worldagroforestry.org/projects/landcare/

Landcare South Africa
www.nda.agric.za/docs/landcarepage/

New Zealand Landcare Trust
www.landcare.org.nz/

Landcare Foundation of the Philippines
www.landcarephilippines.org

Landcare Central (US)
www.landcarecentral.org

Dr David Suzuki’s talk available

A number of sessions of the Australian National Landcare Conference late last year were recorded including the inspiring talk by Dr David Suzuki which was on a tele link direct from Vancouver. If you didn't catch up with it, you still can at <http://www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference/videos>

Become a member of ALI for only \$40 per year. Your \$40 helps ALI keep up with what is happening globally and supports our website and other office costs.

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

Surname.....Given Name.....

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

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Send cheque or money order for \$40 to:

Secretary/Treasurer ALI:
32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East 3183

Or direct Bank Transfer to Bendigo Bank
Acct: Australian Landcare International. BSB 633-000 Acct 1331 03598
And inform Horrie on poussard@thereef.com.au

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