



Australian  
**Landcare**  
International

**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.



## APRIL 2015

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Here is a quick roundup of ALI activities so far this year. It has been a busy time for some ALI members.

We have reviewed our Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) - thanks to Horrie, Kaye and Malachy. We have a few ideas for new funding sources. We are proud however that in 16 months, some 17 projects in 12 countries have been funded, with around \$10 500 raised. We continue to seek new projects and continue to work closely with our main partner, the Victorian Landcare Council.

We are making efforts to build a small group of ALI members in Canberra to assist with political and bureaucratic communications. We feel this is a necessary part of extending our influence and support base.

Andrea Mason and I, with spouses Ken and Alison, ran a Jamaican Landcare training course from 30 March–2 April at Knockalva Agricultural School in the mountains 10 km south of Montego Bay. This was the outcome of more than a year's communication with Professor Mike Fullen of the University of Wolverhampton, UK., and the Hanover

Wolverhampton Link Organisation Project, a group of Wolverhampton citizens of Jamaican origin, many originally from Hanover parish in Jamaica. Mike has known of Landcare from discussions years ago with Horrie Poussard - they both have a soil conservation background. Participants in the 4-day course included both teenage farming students and local farmers; and the course was a great success.

Japanese Landcare continues its establishment processes, and we have applied to the Australia-Japan Foundation for funds to bring Japanese farmers and politicians here, and send Australians there, including a Landcare person experienced in post-disaster rehabilitation and rebuilding communities. The focus would be post tsunami activities.

I attended the Australia NZ Institutes of Foresters conference at Creswick in mid April and flew the flag. I ran a Landcare excursion to Winjallock, the site of the Launch of Landcare in 1986. During the post-conference tour I had time to talk to Chinese delegates and Prince Charles' forester from the Duchy of Cornwall and show them some Landcare on the ground.

*(Continued overleaf)*



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We continue to explore the possibility of a Landcare training program for the SE Asian region next year, centered on Mindanao, which Mary Johnson visited again recently, as part of her project with Noel Vock and Landcare Foundation of the Philippines Inc.

Victoria Mack and Malachy Tarpey were with the Indonesian Landcare project at Selo, Java in early April, then moved on to Padang in western Sumatra to meet a retired agricultural scientist there who is interested in Landcare. (Interest of this kind is common. If only we had a budget to send people overseas, rather than relying on voluntary contributions!)

Horrie Poussard and Bob Edgar continue to network in the Pacific, looking at projects and training opportunities.

Finally, Dr Tanveer Hossain, our Pakistani Landcare stalwart, has just moved to a job in Tokyo with the Asian Productivity Organisation in Tokyo.

***Rob Youl***

***President, ALI***

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## PROGRESS OF OVERSEAS LANDCARE FUND

It is now 18 months since the **Overseas Landcare Fund** was launched by ALI and the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) and it is showing great promise. It was launched following the rapid growth of Landcare in many countries and provides an opportunity for Landcare groups and networks, and other donors, to encourage this growth, particularly in developing countries.

Landcare is now in over 20 countries, especially in Africa. In Asia it is strong in the Philippines and evolving in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In the Pacific, Fiji and Tonga have several Landcare projects between them. In the developed world, Germany, USA, Canada, New Zealand and Iceland also run Landcare programs. And Japan is close to adopting Landcare.



*Field Day for Tanzanian Farmers*

### LANDCARE PROJECTS SUPPORTED SO FAR

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
- re-vegetating degraded farmland

**Fiji** - nursery development, bee trees, junior Landcare

**Indonesia** - tree nursery extensions, food security

**Jamaica** - Landcare training and group formation

**Laos** - wetlands restoration projects

**Nigeria** - wetlands restoration projects

**Philippines** - tree nursery extensions, food security

**Sri Lanka** - junior Landcare

**South Africa** - school water tank

**Timor Leste** - reducing soil erosion

**Tanzania** - schools tree plantings, training women farmers

**Tonga** - school gardens and fencing

**Uganda** - agroforestry, junior Landcare





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The Overseas Landcare Fund encourages Australian groups to support community Landcare activities abroad. For now the fund confines itself to grants of \$500-1000, a lot can be done with five hundred Aussie dollars! This may well change as we gain reputation, PR, managerial experience and bigger sponsors.

So far we have raised nearly \$11 000 for 17 projects in 12 countries.

### **How do we ensure the money is well spent?**

We seek projects overseas—so far these have been readily located through ALI's extensive networks in international Landcare. In future, our website will also attract interest.

The two partners have been helped by bankmecu, Australia's first customer-owned bank. It has donated \$1500 which provides the fund transfer fees to overseas accounts. We collaborate with reputable overseas NGOs to ensure projects are completed satisfactorily. Brief reports with project images will go onto ALI's website and to donors.



*Junior Landcare Tonga*

**This means all money donated by Australian groups, networks and private benefactors goes to designated projects on the ground.**

If donors and recipients chose to do so, Landcare groups can stay in contact with their overseas counterparts, and swap ideas and experiences, and maybe eventually exchange coordinators and members.

A committee from ALI and VLC manages the fund; it comprises Horrie Poussard, Kaye Rodden and Rob Youl. We are currently aiming to provide better reporting to donors.

ALI is working on increasing fund-raising via the Landcare movement, and joint projects with service clubs and local councils and the corporate world, in particular Australian companies operating overseas.

\$500 is not a lot for some Landcare groups and networks. If you can contribute to our Overseas Landcare Fund, contact ALI at [treasurer@alci.com.au](mailto:treasurer@alci.com.au) and we can arrange a suitable project for you.



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## CARIBBEAN LANDCARE?

### *Rob Youl*

Landcare seems to be popping up in all sorts of unlikely places. Recently Rob Youl and Andrea Mason, along with partners Alison and Ken, ventured to Jamaica to carry out a workshop on the Landcare approach to farming and looking after local natural resources. The course was based at Knockalva Agricultural School in the mountains 10 km south of Montego Bay, running from 30 March–2 April.

The request for training came through Professor Mike Fullen of The University of Wolverhampton, who has been in contact with ALI over several years. He works closely with Hanover Wolverhampton Link Organisation Project, a group of Wolverhampton citizens of Jamaican origin, many originally from Hanover parish in western Jamaica. They are interested in giving something back to their homeland, especially those who have retired after an extensive working life in Britain. The training course focused on teenage students in farming from the Agricultural School, along with several local landowners.

Whilst the school has cattle and crops and milks a few cows, nearby is a largish dairy farm and a huge orange grove, unfortunately diseased. Outwardly there seemed to be little other farming in the area, but there is enough to run an annual show, which the Australians missed.



*Andrea Mason speaking in Hanover town hall, with Mayor McIntosh*



*Farm walk on Trevor Lewis's five-acre property – he also has the use of four acres next door*





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Montego Bay supports a huge land-based tourist industry (beaches and golf), and numerous cruise ships visit. But most tourists eat food imported from the US, and have little to do with local people, who by the way are friendly and interesting.

We worked very amiably with the British group and the locals. The Jamaican students were late teenagers – terrific kids, and impressively sharp and farming-oriented. We promoted a multi-disciplinary (as in Landcare) approach and covered many aspects of group formation and project management. Three days were in the classroom and around the school, and one at the property of Trevor and Monica Lewis.

Trevor was a business analyst in the English Midlands for over 30 years. He is a native of Friendship village, Westmoreland parish on the south coast. The surrounding landscape is devoted to sugar

production (a Chinese company has leased the valley for 99 years), but along the Cabarita River there are a few smallholdings like Trevor's. Local farmers, who essentially practice organic farming and grow fruit and vegetables, want to supply produce to resorts and restaurants; as best we could we explored this concept. The local bureaucracy wasn't interested in what we were doing, but the students and farmers certainly were. Trevor himself is also keen to start an ecotourism business.



*Andrea Mason leading discussion at Trevor's bush-house*

What next? We are thinking about this ourselves, and with the Link people. We are in touch also with an Australian resident of Miami who is high up in tourism, and maybe we can organise follow-up visits.



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## CONFERENCE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

for students and early-career professionals  
to attend the

### CRAWFORD FUND 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE BUSINESS OF FOOD SECURITY: PROFITABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK  
10 - 12 August, Parliament House, Canberra

**The Crawford Fund** is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that exists to promote research and development for world food security. We are offering awards to assist young Australian agricultural scientists to attend the 2015 Crawford Fund conference, entitled "*The Business of Food Security: Profitability, sustainability and risk.*" The conference will focus on the critically important roles for both the public and private sectors in meeting future food demand within the limits of the earth's natural resources.

Eligible costs to be met from the Conference Travel Scholarship include transport and accommodation costs related to attending the following conference events:

**Monday 10 August**

Sir John Crawford Memorial Address and networking dinner

**Tuesday 11 August**

Full day Parliamentary Conference

**Wednesday 12 August**

Program for young scientists and scholars

### *Applicants must:*

- Be under the age of 35 as at 1 July 2015, and
- Be either a full-time student at a university located in the relevant State or Territory, or be working in agricultural science.
- Be able to demonstrate an interest in international agricultural development, and preferably in the technical area covered by the conference.

### *To apply:*

Applications for the award must be submitted by **19 June 2015** to the Crawford Fund Coordinator for your State/ Territory who can also provide more background or answer any queries.

Their details are on the contacts page of the website  
[www.crawfordfund.org](http://www.crawfordfund.org)







Become a member of ALI. Your membership 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

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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](mailto:treasurer@alci.com.au)*