



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.



October 2015

President's Message

A review

With our AGM imminent, and 7-8 years of action under our belts, here are my thoughts on ALI.

We set ALI up to give Australians more opportunities to participate directly in the overseas growth of Landcare, their highly effective and surprisingly underrated national movement.

As with domestic Landcare, we network widely and creatively.

Our departing secretary/treasurer (and treasure) is Horrie Poussard, who collaborated with the late Joan Kirner from 1986-89 to establish Landcare, and has worked for the movement ever since. He has served us extraordinarily well. Thanks mate! We have had regular meetings since ALI's inception, with many stimulating speakers and discussions,

at the very welcoming St Kilda EcoCentre, whose past CEO is the highly productive Neil Blake. Thank you, Neil! I must also thank two retiring committee members, Mary Johnson and Bruce Lloyd, for great support over eight years.

Amongst our partners, all informal ones, are the Crawford Fund, Bank Australia (formerly bankmecu) and WAC – World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, which fosters the African Landcare Network and Landcare International.

For some years we gave out travel grants, around a dozen in all, for Landcare people to both travel overseas and spread the word and learn from other communities.

Then two years ago, with the Victorian Landcare Council, we started the Overseas Landcare Fund to enable donors, especially Landcare groups and networks here, to give small grants to overseas projects. At this date we have raised over \$12 000 for 20 projects in 12 countries.

Hard work by Horrie and Bernie Wonder, our committee member from NSW, should see us granted DGR status soon, which will prove an added incentive to donors.

We were involved in two master classes in Africa in 2011 and 2013 with WAC and Crawford, and a short self-funded course in western Jamaica early this year, which we are following up – possibly with a longer event in 1-2 years on St Kitts-Nevis. Our efforts in the Pacific, especially through Horrie and Bob Edgar in Tonga and Fiji, were complemented last month by a week of training in Fiji by Ian Oxenford and Andrea Mason. Again, a bigger Pacific – SE Asian event is mooted.

One of my greatest ALI moments was overseeing recently, but from a distance, the visit of Indonesian Landcarers to Mindanao in the southern Philippines to swap notes with the Landcare farmers there. ALI fostered this event, which we had long sought, with funding from the Crawford Fund. It brought together two tropical Landcare entities, the SILC-backed Javan project and our old friends in Landcare Foundation of the Philippine.

Equally I have relished our efforts with a strong and motivated group in Japan to introduce Landcare to that country, attempting to help revitalise rural communities there.

Lately

I have just returned from the vast World Forestry Congress in Durban, KwaZulu Natal, where I promoted Landcare; helped with a Landcare side event; supported the

ICRAF African Landcare Network team – of which Uganda has become a key member, now that it has a national Landcare program; liaised with the South Africans; and met people from all over, including Sweden, Iran, Britain, Finland and the US consulting sphere. I was one of only a dozen Australians, amongst over 3000 delegates, which surprised me. I paid for my visit of course, and found it all very stimulating. It is a big world, with thousands of forest types. A major theme was revegetation, so all my readers will agree that Australia really has a role to stimulate land restoration during the next demanding decades.

Junior Landcare

I have believed for years that Junior Landcare offers huge potential. We do good things here in many places, that could be replicated more widely, and Africans have some great ideas and really effective programs. If you have not done so already, please check out this YouTube clip from Uganda:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/625sitol4vqiuqb/AAA2d6Efp-8gTmucqfe86fSra?dl=0>

Rob Youl – President

0407 362 840 robmyoul@gmail.com

Communications

Send all material to Andrea Mason (thanks Andrea) for website, Twitter and Facebook publishing:

andrea.mason@findingnorth.net.au

ALI trains Fijians in Landcare

A month ago, two ALI members, Ian Oxenford and Andrea Mason ran a 5-day workshop just out of Nadi, Fiji, in the Sabeto Catchment. The focus was on 3 village communities which had recently become Landcare groups with the support of the Secretariat for Pacific Communities (SPC) and the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture. The Crawford Fund generously supported the training project.

The workshop was tailored for each community in the upper, mid and lower catchment respectively.



Andrea's role was to build the understanding of community learning, support and planning and she has a wealth of experience in her Landcare local work and recently through a workshop with Rob Youl in Jamaica.

Ian introduced the possible impacts of climate change on food production in the area and discussed various practices to minimise impacts and reduce risks. Ian was one of the early group of change agents who worked with Al Gore on climate change education. In the workshop he also talked about ways to

assess their farm management practices and decide on suitable future actions based on farm economics and risk factors.

Maria Elder-Ratutokarua from SPC who helped organise the workshop said that it was a good workshop, very relevant and participants really enjoyed the catchment tour. *We all learnt a lot and enjoyed the training sessions. It's towards the end of our climate change project and this activity should have been one of the first things done in the Sabeto catchment.*

While the primary focus of the workshop was the local farming communities, the SPC staff also said they gained a much better understanding of the Landcare approach and community capacity building. ALI will be exploring further ways of enhancing local advisors skills in community action.



Don't miss the AGM coming up soon

Dr Joanne Millar from Charles Sturt University will be our guest speaker at ALI's 6th AGM on **Sunday 15th November**. She is an ALI member and has experience with Landcare "way back". More recently she worked with CSU and ACIAR on several projects in Asia and the Pacific. Her specialty is community capacity building and will talk about her experiences in Indonesia, Laos, and Bhutan.

The AGM will be held at the Port Phillip EcoCentre, 55A Blessington Street, St Kilda (corner Blessington and Herbert Streets). It will start with light refreshments from 12.30 pm followed by the meeting and Dr Millar's talk.

Over the 8 years we have been going, we have learnt a lot, expanded our activities and have a lot more things now on the go. We are expanding our committee to formally have 6 designated positions. The new committee will have:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Publicity Officer

Membership officer

plus 3 general committee positions.

This will spread the load as we now have more to do with overseas projects, training programs and fund raising

Nomination Form for Committee of

Australian Landcare International Inc.

For the Annual General Meeting to be held at Port Phillip EcoCentre
On Sunday 15th November 2015
commencing at 1.00pm

I wish to nominate for the ALI Committee

My Name:

For the position of:

(One of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Membership Officer and 3x committee members.

My signature:

Name of seconder:

Note:

Candidates and Seconders must be current, paid up members of ALI.
Annual Membership is Free for <25yrs and students, \$20 for others and \$40 for groups.
For information contact the Secretary, Horrie Poussard, on poussard@iinet.net.au

The completed Nomination Form should be delivered not less than 7 days before the meeting date to:

Secretary,
Australian Landcare International Inc.
32 Loch Avenue
St Kilda East Vic 3183
Or email poussard@iinet.net.au

Horrie Poussard, who has been Secretary /Treasurer for the seven years since ALI began is retiring from these positions but will still be involved in other ALI activities. Other long time committee members Bruce Lloyd and Mary Johnson are retiring from the committee so there are plenty of opportunities for “new blood”.

Fish and chicken combo started in East Timor

Leo Soares, project Manager at IMI (an NGO based at Gleno near Dili in Timor Leste) was very pleased with the latest project by a local group of farmers – combining chicken raising and fish farming. ALI provided a grant from its overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) for \$1000 to dig a large fish pond, construct the chicken house and buy the young fish and chicken stock. Funds were generously donated by ALI members. This is the second OLF grant managed by IMI.



Locals learning about aquaculture.

IMI works for social change at a local level with a focus on agriculture, education and advocacy. This is a very obvious food security project to overcome local.



Hand-dug fish pond nearing completion

The pond was hand dug and the banks smoothed and grassed. Some plants were added to the pond as it filled up and young *tilapia* fish added to grow out. It is hoped that next year some local species of fish will be also grown out.

The chicken house was built of bamboo on concrete stumps and sits over the pond. Chicken manure is a vital element of the fish nutrition.



The chicken and fish system.



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