



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.



## December 2016

### President's Message

A major activity of Australian Landcare International is its Overseas Landcare Fund; in almost three years the OLF has raised and paid out \$Au16 500 to 28 projects in 13 countries, a useful achievement. ALI is now rejigging the website, adding a crowd-funding app, seeking corporate and philanthropic donors and producing a YouTube video for the website. And looking for more projects – generally we support groups known personally through our networking and overseas partners.

We have most to do with a dozen countries in eastern and southern Africa – the African Landcare Network (ALN), and with Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Tonga, Fiji, Timor Leste, Indonesia and Jamaica. Regarding the Pacific and Timor Leste, Ian

Oxenford is our project co-ordinator. You may recall that, through Crawford Fund, Ian and Andrea Mason ran a week-long training course in Fiji late last year. We maintain contact with Fijian and Tongan colleagues as the region recovers from its natural disasters

In Africa, ALI is part of a four-year ACIAR project devoted to improving farm produce marketing in Uganda and Zambia, with a medium-term goal also of launching a multi-national large-scale revegetation project via the ALF. From 5-8 December an ALI team of Jason Alexandra, Keith Bradby and Andrea Mason assisted our Nairobi colleagues, Evelyn Kiptot, Joan Kimaiyo and Mieke Bourne, to run a training course at Solwezi, the capital of the Zambian Copper Belt.

ACIAR funded Jason and the Crawford Fund supported the other two trainers. ALI will continue to be part of similar African Landcare Network exercises over the next three years.

In early November a party of four, Prof Allan Dale (James Cook University), Jen Quealy, Andrea Mason and I visited our SPELJ colleagues in Nagoya, Japan. Led by Prof Michael Seigel and Dr Kaz Kagohashi, they sought to tap Australian Landcare experience to help them achieve their goal of revitalising rural communities and improving post-disaster rehabilitation.

We visited the northern Honshu tsunami-earthquake zone and later a village near Iso in Aichi prefecture: then conferred for two days at Nanzan University, Nagoya.

In a further demonstration of our close ties with Japan, a student from Nagoya University, Ms Misato Imase, is here for six months looking at Landcare, environmental education, volunteerism and stronger Japan-Oz links. She attended the recent Melbourne National Landcare conference, and has seen many Landcare and educational activities in Victoria and NSW already, and visited SA and far north Queensland.

Landcare started in Iceland more than 20 years ago with a strong soil conservation base.

Because we strongly believe in helping young people, we are developing ties with youth-oriented Intrepid Landcare, which has spread to Victoria and Queensland from NSW. We want very much to include young people in overseas activities. Finally, in Colombia, Angelo and Amy Indovino's Fundación Soñar+Verde is implementing environmental projects in ten Cartagena public schools, financed by the local EPA. Thirty schools now participate, a great achievement for this couple - they spend half each year in Melbourne's Southbank and the rest in Cartagena.

Please enjoy Christmas with my best wishes.

Rob Youl

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## Have you checked out the ALI website and Facebook recently?

Our communications officer, Andrea Mason has been in a good position to keep up to date our Facebook and website information. Most recently she has been in Zambia alongside two other ALI contributors to a workshop on Landcare and regional planning. Their comments and lots of photos are great. Check ***Australian Landcare International*** on Facebook. Also have a look from time to time at our website at [www.alci.com.au](http://www.alci.com.au) And for Twitter fans [ALI@AusLandcareInt](https://twitter.com/ALI@AusLandcareInt)

## New Committee members after the AGM

The ALI annual general meeting was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Port Phillip EcoCentre. Dr David Smith was elected onto the committee along with Phil Horner who represents the Victorian Landcare Council. The VLC is a partner with ALI in our Overseas Landcare Fund program. David Smith has had an extensive and illustrious career as a university educator and Department of Agriculture head. He was originally off a farm in South Australia. Phil has Landcare experience in North East Victoria.

The new committee is also interested in setting up sub committees with opportunities for members to contribute to the ongoing development of ALI.



By Judy Horacek

Judy kindly allowed us to use some of her cartoons

Areas identified are:

- Communications & profile/brand
- Compliance strategy, planning & prioritisation
- Landcare knowledge exchange
- Funding & resources
- Local ownership
- Member participation
- Membership

Contact President Rob Youl  
[robmyoul@gmail.com](mailto:robmyoul@gmail.com) or  
Secretary Sandra McPhee at  
[ruralecology65@gmail.com](mailto:ruralecology65@gmail.com)

We would love to hear members' views.

Great video on Landcare in Uganda. See  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBTXbzTOA58>

## ALI helps with Landcare training in Zambia

The ALI team of Jason Alexandra, Keith Bradby and Andrea Mason have just returned from the Landcare Masterclass in Solwezi, Zambia which was run as part of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Project, *Developing Value Chain Innovation Platforms to Improve Food Security in East and Southern Africa*. The project is led by the World Agroforestry Centre (WAC) and the African Landcare Network (ALN).



*The participants and trainers.*

There is real enthusiasm and support in this region for a landcare initiative and for more agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices.

Three main themes developed over the four days of workshop:

- Community/farmer group action (using a Landcare approach) in production, conservation farming and in developing value chains for marketing produce. The training

provided skills in project planning and community development.

- Development of new networks for extension officers and project managers to foster interagency collaboration and increase local participation at the grass roots level within Zambia and across the region.
- Large scale land restoration across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries using the Landcare approach. (Participants from South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Kenya, Zambia)



*Learning African style in the open air.*

Farmers, extension officers, researchers, project managers and the ALI team shared experiences, learnt from each other and developed projects based on the Landcare model. On the final day all participants committed to taking action to further ideas discussed beyond the four days of training.

*“It’s not completely new; these are things we do day in and day out, but it just needed a boost - that’s what Landcare can give”*  
**Workshop participant**

The ALI team’s participation was supported by ACIAR and WAC, and by the generous support of the Crawford Fund for two of the ALI team.

More photos on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/australianlandcare/>

## **Conference planned on Landcare research**

SPELJ, the organisation promoting Landcare in Japan is based at Nanzan University in central Japan. SPELJ, the Nanzan University, ALI and others are planning to convene an international conference at Nagoya from 5-8 November 2018 on Landcare research. It is a sorely needed subject area which is often neglected in our rush to initiate and manage projects. Watch this space!

*If you haven’t renewed your membership yet, now is a good time. No increased subs this year! It’s not much. Sign up a friend.*



[www.facebook.com/Australianlandcare](https://www.facebook.com/Australianlandcare)



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## **Timor and Bhutan projects with CSU**

ALI has been a supporter of a project with Charles Sturt University in Bhutan called *Sustainable rangeland management to protect red pandas and herder livelihoods*. The Project is funded by UK organisation, The Darwin Initiative. It aims to work with local farmers and Yak herdsman to maintain and improve land management on steep land showing significant soil erosion problems, particularly landslips, caused by overgrazing and deforestation. . Education, revegetation and community development are the main project activities. The Project is in its first year.

ALI has also supported CSU in its application to the Darwin Initiative for funding for a 3 year project in East Timor. Titled *Community reforestation for biodiversity, livelihood diversification and culture in Timor-Leste*, the project aims for:

*An expansion of community led reforestation that integrates agroforestry, farmer managed natural regeneration, biodiversity conservation and carbon payments through an internationally recognised carbon accreditation scheme.*

We expect the decision on this project application in the next 2 months.



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:

7 Lonsdale St., Hampton East Vic 3188 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)**