



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.



March 2017

President's Message

Thirty years of Landcare helped Australian communities prepare for climate change. You know the reasons: our multi-disciplinary ethos, can-do approach, devolved structures, mutual-support networks, technical education, mosaic approach to ambitious regional and national projects, involvement in schools, employment of community coordinators, friendly internal collaboration, communications skills and links to all tiers of government.

In recent years in Australia Landcare has also emerged as an economical and efficient tool for communities after natural disasters. In fact Landcare is so effective it should be part of Australia's traditional municipal disaster-planning system, working hand-in-hand with fire authorities, the SES, councils, hospitals, RSPCA, police and public service departments

People overseas have also noticed the remarkable and empowering evolution of Landcare, in particular post-tsunami Japan, whose Landcare movement is emerging slowly but surely. Other alerted groupings include the South Pacific nations and the Philippines following cyclones.

Australian Landcare International (ALI) started in 2007-08 with climate change high on its agenda. ALI's small grants program has raised and distributed around \$20,000 for over 30 projects in 14 countries over the last four years. And ALI has also run training courses in Fiji and Jamaica and most recently in Zambia with the World Agroforestry Centre.

Because of this hard work by many associated with ALI, I think today we get far greater recognition, including in

government circles. Accordingly I expect 2017 will be good for us in ALI, and for other community bodies helping improve farming and environmental conditions abroad.

Finally, my heart operation in mid-February has gone well, but I will be on leave for some time yet. To my delight however ALI committee members and friends have jumped into the breach, displaying great spirit and sensitivity, which I have found very gratifying. Incidentally our valued and very loyal committee member, the sagacious Dr David Smith, is seriously ill after a fall. We hope he is comfortable and that rehabilitation can start soon.

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Have you checked out the ALI website and Facebook recently?

Andrea Mason and Paula Havelberg have been keeping our Facebook and website information up to date. Their comments and lots of photos are great.



www.facebook.com/Australianlandcare

And for Twitter fans



ALI@AusLandcareInt

New Projects funded under the OLF

Over the past 3 months Landcare groups and private donors have given funding to three projects under our Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF). Projects in Uganda (Junior Landcare) , Fiji (Shade houses for seedling nurseries) and Tanzania (agricultural advice and farm trials for women farmers) are supporting local communities in their Landcare activities. Landcare groups find that they often have a surplus of funds (outside of dedicated project funds) to provide a small grant of \$500-\$1000 for an OLF project. Some groups have now a developing history of supporting a specific community group overseas for several years.

Unfortunately we are still waiting for approval from the Federal government to allow up to offer a tax deduction (Deductible Gift Recipient status) for gifts by private donors and corporations. We have been waiting for a year and despite entreaties by ALI and friends, we have yet to get an answer. However Landcare groups usually do not pay tax and so DGR does not apply to them. If there are groups interested in supporting our OLF projects (now over 30 projects finalised over 5 years) please drop us a line to find out more or donate.

Contact : secretary@alci.com.au

Bhutan herders care about red pandas and want to improve their livelihoods.

ALI member Dr Jo Millar (from Charles Sturt University) has played an active role in developing a new program in Bhutan to improve the livelihood of local livestock herders while also protecting and enhancing red panda habitat. ALI has provided an Overseas Landcare Grant to assist the project which is funded mainly by the Darwin Initiative, a UK funding body.

A household survey was conducted in October 2016 with 75 Merak herding families who use winter grazing areas in the buffer zone of [Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary](#). The project is focusing on this area for land rehabilitation, revegetation, pasture improvement, biogas trials and red panda conservation. Jo trained local parks and livestock staff in how to conduct the interviews of 80 herders. Some preliminary findings are highlighted here.



Surveying local herders

A small proportion of herders had seen individual red pandas in the wild, usually while herding their yaks and sheep.

Some said they saw red pandas sleeping in the tree canopy or crossing the path and disappearing into the forest. No-one had seen red panda cubs. Most herders knew that red pandas eat bamboo leaves, tree leaves and wild fruits and some thought they ate grass.

But no-one knew how red pandas raised their young, where they moved to/from or if their numbers had changed in the last 20 years. All herders were keen to protect red pandas as they hold social and religious values.

In the herder communities, there was significant variation in herd sizes, grazing area and livestock numbers. Some individuals had sheep only or no animals, whilst others had large herds of yaks. However, the majority of people thought the rangeland was in poor condition. Those with large livestock numbers resorted to lopping trees for fodder in winter. A few herders had trialled pasture improvement and were keen to try again once pasture leasing was finalised.

Production activities centred around butter and cheese production mainly but some people also had income from weaving, working for others or running Farmstay accommodation. The majority of herders were interested in joining a savings group, trialling biogas units and developing alternative income sources to raising livestock. Information on the progress of the project can be obtained from the blog that has been set up. See [redpandabhutan](#) for updates on the program.

Landcare research conference in Japan in November.

November is a great time to visit Japan, with its beautiful autumnal landscapes and cool clear weather. And November 5-8th this year in Nagoya will be the place to attend the first Landcare conference in Japan. What's more it will have a focus on Landcare research – social science, community development, practical outcomes and policy and funding impacts. It will be an international conference, all in English, at the Nanzan University in Nagoya, about half way between Tokyo and Osaka in central Japan. It's title is ***Global resilience through local self-reliance - the Landcare model.***



Nagoya in Autumn

The Nanzan University Institute for Social Ethics (which cooperates with SPELJ, the group promoting Landcare in Japan) is organising the conference, along with ALI and others. It is felt that there are lots of lessons, experience and information about Landcare development and operations in a number of countries now and spreading that information

through other parts of the world can only help the cause of international Landcare.

Already Dr Mick Seigel and his team have lined up some international speakers including Prof Andrew Campbell, formerly of Charles Darwin University and now head of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Andrew was the first National Landcare Coordinator nearly 30 years ago.

On-going information on the conference will be available in April.

Our Membership

ALI membership is still only \$20 per annum and free for students and under 25s. Landcare groups pay \$40 per year. Membership helps us with some funds for keeping ALI ticking over – although some members and committee give much more through their donations of time and paying various costs out of their pocket. Membership also allows us to present a case to donors and government that ALI is a significant organisation doing worthwhile things with overseas communities.

We are always happy to see new members supporting ALI.

Uganda Junior Landcare supported and thriving

A recent report from one of our Overseas Landcare Projects – Junior Landcare in Uganda – paints a great picture of what can be done with a bit of outside support. The French Island Landcare group in Victoria has given two grants totalling \$1500 to assist the Kabale Agroforestry Network (KAN) working in a somewhat degraded corner of Uganda. KAN's target is to assist landholders and users to plan, design and implement the integration of multipurpose trees into the local farming systems.



Primary school students setting up nursery.

They see agroforestry and Landcare as keys to dealing with their highly degraded landscape for optimum benefits.

As part of their program, KAN sees local school children in having an important long term role in this process and has developed suitable activities for a number of schools in the area. Jimmy Musiime, the Chairman of KAN and Joy Tukahirwa, KAN founder member, made visits to Australia in 2015 and caught up

with ALI, VLC and members from the Otway Agroforestry Network. All have supported KAN to varying extents.



School posters on practical establishment and management in the plant nursery.

The Junior Landcare Program comprises three key elements :

1. Training landcare school facilitators. Nursery establishment and management is part of the training.
2. Starting Junior Landcare in a number of local schools. This includes supporting schools with some equipment like watering cans, wheelbarrows and shovels, along with tree seedlings and vegetable seeds .
3. Strengthening Junior Landcare in schools through monitoring visits and supported with site selection and nursery establishment costs and expertise.

The activities of KAN has attracted the attention of government agencies in Uganda as well as regional and international organisations.



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