



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 2018

President's message.

This year has been demanding, but we have coped. Now, late in 2018, in my last weeks as president, I see many opportunities, thanks to our hard work over the last ten years. Yes! ALI started in 2008 under myself and Horrie Poussard. Since then, we and our colleagues have taken a Landcare approach to assist local communities overseas to protect and improve their land and water resources. We have done this through training, networking, project support, publicity and events.

Commercial alert!!! Some 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and the South Pacific have community-based Landcare programs. Those in Germany, South Africa, NZ and the Philippines rival Australia for longevity and scale. Individual Australians, small NGOs and government agencies helped bring this about.

Why is Landcare so effective? It offers flexibility, a multi-disciplinary character, freedom from corruption through group decision-making, commercial partnerships, emphasis on training and resultant community empowerment. It brings skills and knowledge to communities, particularly in developing countries, and enhances climate-change awareness and commitment, and disaster planning and response.

The best Landcare networks, here and abroad, operate as community enterprises, and I believe strongly that today Australian aid agencies are paying more attention to Landcare's achievements.

Great news! Two Landcare champions Mary Johnson (RMIT University) and Kamy Melvani (Neosynth, Sri Lanka – CDU, Darwin) were both awarded PhDs recently. Congratulations, Mary and Kamy!

Last year in Nagoya in November 2017, ALI and Japanese colleagues ran the first overseas Landcare research conference. Seventy attended, half from Australia.

Funders were the Australia-Japan Foundation and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva. A book on the proceedings nears completion under Professors Mick Seigel and Allan Dale.

In May 2018 three ALI members (Andrea Mason, Hank Tyler and myself) went to St Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean to conduct Landcare training, collaborating with Mike Fullen, a UK soils professor; Ms Keptreene Finch, a UK social worker born on St Kitts; and Kistian Flemming, a regional scientist. Neighbouring islands, Antigua, Barbuda and St Vincent, also sent students, thanks to Australian High Commission support - High Commissioner John Pilbeam from Trinidad and Tobago, proved a great source of support.

A three-person ALI team (Belinda Brennan, Jason Alexandra and David Curry) travelled to eastern Uganda in August 2018 to train smallholders in marketing farm produce, Landcare co-ordinators in network management, and to explore multi-country revegetation projects in southern Africa - part of a three-year ACIAR project, also supported by Crawford Fund. Our instructors did a superb job. They greatly appreciated the professionalism and energy of Mieke Bourne, a WA native who works for ICRAF/WAC in Nairobi. (An ALI team participated in a similar project in Zambia in 2015. And further note that Landcare is a national program in Uganda.)

Backed by Landcare Victoria Inc., ALI's small projects fund has, over five years, raised \$50 000 for 40 small projects

in 15 countries. Landcare groups and networks, individuals and local organisations provide resources. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed. Currently we are finalising the transfer of \$5200 for bicycles for Landcare co-ordinators in the Zambian Copperbelt.

What comes next? Personally, I want to pursue the suggestion made at Nagoya to launch an SE Asian training program, also involving NZ, Japan and LFPI - Philippines Landcare. The first course would be based on Bohol island. I see it expanding reasonably quickly to cover the Indian sub-continent and the South Pacific, with some offshoots via South Africa. I also want to approach the UK Queens Canopy program about a revegetation project linking Uganda and Kenya – this concept arose from the training described above.

There also appear to be ways to build the Caribbean training program too, which investigation Keptreene will lead. I will also try to bring Ugandan forester, Clement Okia, here to study eucalypts. (Readers will note that I see a continuing operational role for myself in ALI after I have retired as chair. I welcome the new executive and promise them my quiet loyalty.)

Most importantly ALI needs paid co-ordination. We must be one of the few reasonably successful Landcare enterprises in Australia that has never had such support. So far our extensive activities have been totally voluntary, but, as we are on the verge of expansion and greater recognition,

I am adamant we must have a staff – and an office. This goal must be pursued politically.

Horrie Poussard, our founding secretary, has written a paper outlining what he sees as our needs for ALI's next decade. I feel sure he will distribute and discuss this.

Thanks, Horrie, for all your hard work since 2008, and before that in many arenas of international Landcare.

Of course, from Port Phillip EcoCentre, we have always had a warm welcome – for which many thanks, Neil Blake and April Seymore.

Congratulations to Sue Marriott and Victoria Mack, who launched their book at Nagoya: The SILC Road – A 20 year journey with international Landcare. *S Marriott and V Mack: Point Lonsdale 2017.*

Finally, Prof Mick Seigel, well recovered from oesophageal cancer two years ago, will be competing in this year's Massive Murray Paddle with another Japanese canoeist. We are still trying to get them a kayak. ALI is the favoured body for funds they might raise along the way. Good luck, Mick!

ALI currently numbers + 50 people. To learn more, become a member and/or a donor. Visit <https://alci.com.au/> Or email: secretary@alci.com.au

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Recent News

National Landcare Conference 2018

Brisbane ALI Session

“Global Landcare – Our greatest export”

What it offers right now to Australian Landcare

Landcare operates in over 25 countries globally. This panel session introduced a new study to assess how Landcare is working in different country contexts; shared Australian Landcare International (ALI's) global activities; showcased key Landcare approaches by delegates from the Philippines and Uganda and discussed global Landcare opportunities.

Speakers:

Rob Youl OAM, Chair, Australian Landcare International

Retired forester who has worked in farm forestry, revegetation, urban ecology and community action including Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, and Landcare Australia Limited since 1981. Rob has travelled to and inspired many overseas countries to take up Landcare. He, with wife Alison, manages 268 Ha of box-ironbark bush in north-central Victoria.

Jane Curnow, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
Research Program Manager, Social Sciences at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Development, her portfolio invests in collaborative research between Australian researchers and country partners predominately in the Asia-Pacific region. Jayne is a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University and Board Director at Volunteering ACT.

Joy Tukahirwa, Uganda

Joy Tukahirwa is Vice-Chairperson of the Uganda Landcare Network which aims to mobilize resources towards landcare projects, programs and activities; facilitate national landcare stakeholder meetings/conferences; build capacity of landcare network members; mobilize, popularize and support formation of land care platforms; and support income generating activities that promote sustainable land management.

Nikki Cordero, Philippines

Nikki Cordero is Project Field Manager for the ACIAR Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project under the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines Inc. Based in South Cotabato, Mindanao, Nikki directs field programs across three provinces. A graduate of Sultan Kudarat State University, Nikki's particular interest is in community development and capacity building.

Mary Johnson, RMIT University

Dr Mary Johnson, Research Fellow, RMIT University, has over 25 years' experience

working within Australia and internationally in agriculture, natural resource management, education and community development. Her research work with farmers, Indigenous and rural communities focuses on people, partnerships, power and policy.

Andrea Mason, Australian Landcare International

Sustainability and Environment Consultant with a few other skills thrown in! Long time Landcarer, former facilitator, Chair Victorian Landcare Network, Leigh Catchment Group and currently leading the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance. Based near Ballarat she lives on a small property with her husband. ALL projects include the Caribbean, Fiji, Japan and Zambia.

Impressions from a Conference participant from the Philippines

Nikki Cordero



“Well, what a prestige event that I participated, it's a big group of people coming from different fields of expertise

and specialization that shares their outputs, experience, knowledge and ideas, I learned a lot that can i bring on to my country. A well organize field trips from different farmers and landcare groups that inspires me so well, a conference program that showcase different knowledge through different people including me and inspires and challenge one another and creates accidentally or unintentionally networks. This conference makes my believe so strong about " There's a power in Knowledge sharing" that creates change through small ideas or Initiative and creates big Impacts."

St Kitts Nevis Report

Background

The Sustainable Farming through Landcare – Workshop in the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis ran from 18 – 25 May, 2018.

Presenters included professionals from Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Australian Landcare international (ALI) and the University of Wolverhampton (WLV) with support from The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small grants and Australian High Commission Trinidad and Tobago.

Our aim was to bring people from (developing) Caribbean countries to St Kitts and Nevis to participate in this Landcare and sustainable farming training at Nevis and St Kitts - in particular, heads of farmers' groups/cooperatives, community development committees.

Presentations can be seen on <https://alci.com.au/st-kitts-nevis>

Photos can be seen on: https://www.facebook.com/pg/australianlandcare/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1205634422904421

What is the potential for international Landcare? - a new research project

The Australian Landcare model is global, having been adapted in up to 30 countries worldwide, but what exactly does Landcare look like in these countries? This is the question being tackled through a new research project, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), to *investigate the potential of international Landcare.*

Landcare has spread internationally in an informal manner, supported by the passionate interests of individual Australians. Community groups, such as Australia Landcare International and the Secretariat for International Landcare, have over the past twenty years supported the awareness and spread of Landcare to all corners of the globe.

The success and failure of the spread of Landcare in these various country contexts, however, has confirmed that Landcare is not universal.

Led by RMIT University Research Fellow Dr Mary Johnson, and partnering with RMCG Senior Consultant Clinton Muller, the applied research project will investigate the lessons and common factors for success

based on the different modalities of Landcare in countries where the Landcare approach has been introduced.

The study will analyse and compare the Landcare process in six different country contexts, including Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Uganda. The diversity in country selection is representative of the different stages of Landcare program development of each of the study countries. The variation in stages to be tested through the study is reflective of the local cultural conditions, natural resource management and agricultural issues as well as the governance structures present.

The study will partner with respective country Landcare groups and agency partners in-country, as well as share the key research findings with the Australian Landcare community. In doing so, this research project will assess the pre-conditions required for Landcare to succeed and the contribution of Landcare to community outcomes internationally.

For further information contact:

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Clinton Muller, RMCG, 0498 192 596,
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Uganda Landcare Visit Report
13- 16th August 2018

Australian Landcare International delegates:

- Belinda Brennan
- Jason Alexandra
- David Curry

World Agroforestry Centre

- Mieke Bourne
- May Gathigo
- Joan Kimaiyo
- Clement Okia

Sponsorship

Belinda Brennan – sponsored by World Agroforestry Centre

David Curry and Jason Alexandra sponsored by The Crawford Fund.

PART 1: Uganda Landcare Master Class Facilitator Training, Manafwa, Uganda

We were there to deliver training as part of the ACIAR funded Value Chain Innovation Project VIP4FS. (Value Chain Innovation Platforms for Food Security). This project is working with small farmers in Uganda and Zambia. In eastern Uganda it is working to enhance small farmers incomes from coffee, dairy and honey. This project and those that established Landcare in the region are transforming livelihoods and landscapes through demonstrating and promoting adoption of sustainable techniques for land management.



The training focused on:

- Enhancing the capacity of about 45 facilitators involved in the Value Chain Innovation Project
- Facilitating shared learning between the Landcare network and the value chains project to build the capacity of Innovation Platform facilitators
- Build linkages and regional networks to enhance local learning

The training also included 2 site visits.

PART 2: Visits to KADLACC Kapchorwa

Kapchorwa District has an active Landcare network of 35 groups engaged in many dimensions of sustainable land use. There is great potential to learn from their experience and use it as a model to expand the reach and impact of Landcare in the



wider region.

At Tegeres, where they adjoin the national park, they have also signed a community conservation agreement with Uganda wildlife service which makes the farmers

community adjoining the national park its guardian and custodians. They retain some limited harvesting rights for firewood and non-timber resources like fungi but work to protect it from encroachment and poachers. The community is paid a small fee that is recognised as benefit sharing. This is mostly used for community enhancement activities.

These two examples of local Landcare groups are part of the 35-landcare groups that form the strong Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter (KADLACC), a regional network that has received support from AUSaid and ACIAR and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) but which also has support from the district administration. The Ugandan Landcare Network that takes on national coordination also supports Landcare in Uganda nationally.

PART 3: Meeting with Uganda Landcare Network: Buganda Road, Kampala

We met with the Uganda Landcare Network (ULN), Joy Tukahirwa, Vice Chair, ULN and other members of ULN.

Joy gave a presentation on what is happening with Landcare in Uganda, the programs they deliver and challenges they face. (copy of presentation is available)

A key initiative of the ULN is organising a Biennial National Landcare Conference in Uganda scheduled for November 2019.



The details of the conference are still draft but include

- Conference Themes
- Community Landcare Initiatives
- Nurturing Junior Landcare in Schools
- Policy frameworks towards scaling landcare innovation
- Disaster preparedness
- Partnerships
- Cross cutting issues

The conference will be held in K bale in south West Uganda.

Opportunities exist for ALI to be involved in supporting the organisation of the conference and/ or sponsoring a theme. Joy will be circulating the draft flyer for further comment and no doubt the organising committee will be in touch to look at opportunities.

Copies of the Uganda Landcare Network Strategic Plan and presentation from 18th August are available upon request.

The next steps will be to keep the existing projects running into subsequent phases while developing participatory planning processes that engage local and regional networks in articulating their visions for how to build out from their pockets of success.

Recently Elected ALI Committee

President: Andrea Mason

Vice President: Rob Youl

Secretary: Belinda Brennan

Treasurer: Phil Horner

PR: Andrea Mason

Committee: Sandra McPhee, Megan Rowlatt, Clinton Muller, Darryl Ebenezer, Liddy Nevile.