



Australian Landcare International (**ALI**) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to assist other countries to take up Landcare ideas. **ALI does not provide funds for overseas projects – this is left to various aid organisations.**

Intro

Welcome to the first **ALI** newsletter. Please use it as a forum for ideas on spreading the good word (and actions) of a Landcare approach to communities in other countries.

ALI was started earlier this year by a group of Australians who had been involved in Landcare at various levels over the last 20 years. We are interested to use our Landcare experience to help others overseas to take up the Landcare approach. There are now more than 10 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and the Pacific where Landcare is established. Other countries have heard of Landcare and want to know if it could help their local communities. **ALI** provides the prime contact point for overseas enquiries about Landcare, and can give guidance and support to those communities interested to know what Landcare is all about.

ALI has direct links with Landcare International (LI), a multi-national group formed out of the International Landcare Conference and based in Nairobi, Kenya. LI works at a senior government and industry level to promote and support the development of Landcare in many countries. **ALI** sees itself working at an organisational and local level.

ALI Members

Currently we have a dozen members of ALI, most of whom are actively involved with Landcare through training, group activities, policy and program development

and corporate support. Many have overseas work experience. Rob Youl from *CarbonSmart* is the President and Horrie Poussard, secretary. Ways are being found to support the efforts of interesting, energetic and far-sighted potential Landcarers in other countries. Membership of ALI is a modest \$40 per year.

What we are doing

ALI has a number of actions on the go, including.

1. Editing and publishing a new book, in conjunction with Landcare International, on the experience of Landcarers in other countries. It will provide guidance and encouragement to others thinking of starting or expanding Landcare. The book is due out in late 2008.
2. Overseeing the Victorian International Landcare Study Fellowship, funded by private donors. This Fellowship provides an opportunity for an experienced Landcare coordinator to travel to a nominated country and exchange ideas with a developing Landcare movement.
3. Setting up a database of Landcare expertise across Australia to assist overseas project managers and new groups.

ALI is also looking ways to encourage Landcare in a number of future project areas including Chile, Indonesia, Tonga and Nauru.

Latest Travel Fellowship awarded.

John Robinson, Landcare Coordinator with the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA on the northern edge of Melbourne, is the latest recipient of the Victorian Landcare Travel Fellowship. John will be heading in late September to Virginia, USA, to meet members of the two Landcare groups (to date) there and to swap notes with group coordinators and members.

Tongan project

Bob Edgar has been going to Tonga for several years as a team member and organiser of Rotary projects there. His background in Landcare came to the fore with the idea of assisting to develop a Tongan Village Agriculture project. He worked with a Tongan forester who came to the last International Landcare conference in Melbourne. They have just developed a proposal for a village based Landcare project which would be overseen and supported by the local Tongan Community Development Trust. Hopefully it will go ahead and be the first South Pacific Landcare project.

Tourists touch base with US Landcare

ALI secretary Horrie Poussard, on a private tour in the US in April, diverted through to Virginia on Landcare business. He gave a number of talks to Landcare group members, university and government staff about Landcare in Australia. He was invited by Dr David Robertson of the Virginia Tech University, and spent 4 days with members of Catawba and Grayson Landcare groups.



Creek rehabilitation at Catawba



Pasture improvement on Grayson Landcare beef farm.

Horrie also gave a joint presentation, with Dr. Robertson, to an interested group of US Department of Agriculture policy and program officers in Washington. While there is growing interest in Landcare in the US, the challenge is to muster practical government and corporate support to kick the fledgling movement along.

Indonesian interest in Landcare

Raymond Obunga of Infront, an NGO operating in Indonesia, recently contacted Australia seeking information about introducing Landcare ideas to Indonesia. Dr Dennis Garrity, chair of Landcare International, has long considered Indonesia a likely Landcare country. He worked in Indonesia for many years with the International Centre for Research on Agroforestry (ICRAF). **ALI** members Sue Marriott and Victoria Mack are planning to go to Indonesia soon to discuss with Raymond ways to advance Landcare in his country.

The Benefits of ALI membership

- 1. Using your landcare experience to assist overseas groups
- 2. Overseas contacts for future travel
- 3. Developing links with possible sister groups overseas
- 4. Being part of a world-wide movement for land, biodiversity and community improvement
- 5. Regular e-newsletter on overseas Landcare developments

Feel free to send us a brief CV.

Surname..... **Given Name**.....

Address.....**P/C**.....

Email.....

Skills/interests.....

Send cheque or money order for \$40 to:
Secretary/Treasurer ALI :
Horrie Poussard, 32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East 3183 poussard@thereef.com.au

Or direct Bank Transfer to Bendigo Bank
Acct : Australian Landcare International. BSB 633-108 Acct 1331 03598

Proposed wrap-around cover of the new Landcare International book.

