

Australian Landcare International Newsletter

February 2012



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 normally provide funds for overseas projects – this is left to various aid organisations**

President's Note

As ever, there is plenty to report in the international Landcare arena. Firstly an ALI subcommittee has been discussing where we might go in the light of the greatly increased Australian aid budget, an encouraging letter from AusAID, a current government review of support to the UN on rural livelihoods in developing countries, and our growing contacts with NGOs working overseas. There seem several possibilities for ALI to help initiate some form of full-time international Landcare bureau to take over the work that volunteers have been doing for so long.

Secondly, several members have had a lot of friendly contact with Professor Mick Seigel from Nanzan Catholic University, Nagoya, at La Trobe for three month's sabbatical. He grew up at Barooga on the Murray, entered the priesthood and went to Japan in 1973. Mick's field is environmental ethics; he has been adapting a Japanese consultation process for use in the Murray-Darling. Its originator, Toshio Kuwako, leader of the Japanese Commons movement, is keen to come to Oz to look at Landcare. Mick says there are many local projects in urban Japan, but we could teach them about networking, consolidating and attracting more support.

Next is the New Zealand Landcare Trust conference at Hamilton from 29 February-2 March, which has attracted a substantial Australian contingent, including Mal Brown and Darren Williams, our eighth and ninth travel fellows who will represent their CMAs. I will be speaking on international Landcare and, with Matt Reddy, running a workshop on

Partnerships. NZLT CEO Nick Edgar is very keen to involve the Kiwis in international Landcare, especially in the Pacific.

In that regard we have just learned that the the World Wildlife Fund has started two Landcare groups in Fiji on outlying islands to try to reduce shoreline degradation and thereby improve water quality and fisheries within local bays and reefs. This is very encouraging, noting that six years ago, following a South Pacific Community workshop, it seemed possible that Landcare would spread throughout the SPC, but politics seemed to get in the way.

Furthermore ICRAF is holding a Landcare master class in Uganda in mid March. Mary Johnson, Rowan Reid, Bruce Lloyd and I will be there, as will WA's Theo Nabben and UNE's Julian Prior. Crawford Fund is financing most of these people, and ALI is helping with my expenses. Some thirty African participants will attend from Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi and South Africa, with a full week devoted to training in Landcare administration at regional and national levels. A further master class is likely in South Africa later this year.

So you can see we are optimistic, progress is being made and we are heartened by good advice we getting from welcome new members such as Sandy Mackenzie, Jane Starey and Dick Ranken. The latter two have had extensive experience overseas, and Sandy of course served three terms in Canberra as an MP.

Finally we reflect on the benefits of Dennis Garrity's visit to Australia late last year. Dennis travels and liaises very widely and effectively, and I thank him publicly for all he did to help us. His excellent offsider AYAD Mieke Bourne, who has worked for ICRAF for almost a year, will stay on with the organisation. We thank her heartily for her intelligent and dedicated contribution throughout that period, and understand that another young Australian will join her at ICRAF under the AYAD program.

With best wishes

Rob Youl

ALI Members received Australia Day Awards for Landcare efforts.

It was a special day for Landcare and for our members- President Rob Youl and committee member Sue Marriott - when they got Australia Day "gongs" – a great recognition of their work over the years for Landcare at home and abroad. The awards are given by the Australian Government to people across all walks of life for service to the community in various forms.

Sue's AM award is for ***service to conservation and the environment through the Secretariat for International Landcare, particularly the development of programs dealing with climate change and rural land management.***

Rob got his OAM award for ***service to conservation and the environment in Victoria through the Landcare movement.***

That two of our members should get awards is amazing, considering our small numbers and to get them in the same year is even more wonderful. ALI is proud of both of them and it puts international Landcare in the public space.

Landcare Award and Thai trip



Photo: Carrie Tiffany

ALI supporter, Karen Brisbane recently won a Victorian Government award for her work in Landcare over many years. She collected the Heather Mitchell Memorial Fellowship, named after a co-founder of Landcare, Heather Mitchell, the then President of the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Last year Rob Youl hosted a group of Thai agricultural experts who were visiting Victoria looking at salinity controlling practices and the role of community action in achieving better land management. Karen played a significant role in showing and explaining salinity control practices in the Goulburn Valley in Northern Victoria to the Thai visitors.

The Fellowship will enable Karen to travel to northern Thailand and meet up with some of the Thai visitors. She will assist landholders develop farm plans to deal with salinity issues on their rice paddies.

In 2009 Karen was awarded an ALI Fellowship and spent 26 days visiting natural resource management projects in the US and gave 15 presentations on Landcare to various groups there.

ALI proud of its travel fund Fellows.

ALI over its short history has been instrumental in awarding ten Landcare Travel Fellowships to progress the ideas of Landcare in various international events and situations. The Fellowships have been financially supported by various ALI members, employers, NZ Landcare Trust, DSE Victoria (2009) and ALI friends Ted and Maria Boltong.

The travel Fellows are :

Steve Guy (NZ 2007),
John Robinson (USA 2008),
Karen Brisbane (USA 2009),
Matt Stephenson (Sri Lanka 2010),
Kellie Nicholls (NZ 2011),
Horrie Poussard and Terry Hubbard (Korea 2011),
Mal Brown and Darren Williams (NZ 2012),
Rob Youl (Kenya/Uganda 2012).

Their experiences have helped ALI develop contacts, appreciate the issues in other countries and encourage the development of new Landcare groups and programs in those countries. Well done.

ALI Reps at New Zealand Landcare Trust Conference 2012

A number of ALI members will be giving talks and workshops at the upcoming New Zealand Landcare Trust's conference at Hamilton, south of Auckland- near to Rotorua and Lake Taupo- from 29 Feb to 1 March, 2012.

ALI President Rob Youl, along with 2 ALI Fellowship awardees, Mal Brown and Darren Williams, and member Andrew Stewart will be giving keynote addresses. Rob will be talking about the globalisation of Landcare while Mal and Darren will highlight the role Landcare can play in catchment management. Rob, along with Matt Reddy from the River Foundation (and previously Landcare Australia) will also be giving a workshop to staff on partnerships. The Australian contingent will be bolstered by other speakers and participants.

Keep an eye on their NZLT website at www.landcare.org.nz/

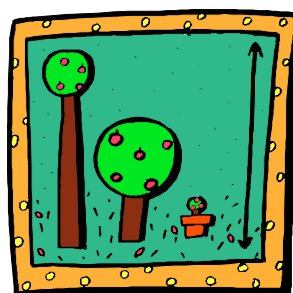


UNCCD cartoon

Landcare Master Classes in Africa

From 18-24 March 2012, The World Agroforestry Centre will host a Master Class on Landcare at Mbale, 250 km east of Kampala in Uganda. It will run for a week, including one day in the field looking closely at an excellent Landcare project at Kapchorwa on the slopes of Mount Elgon, one of East Africa's volcanoes.

Participants will come from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi and Ethiopia— five from each nation. They include national-level policy makers, community facilitators, existing Landcare partners and staff from NGOs. Besides Dr Dennis Garrity and Mieke Bourne of WAC, a number of Australian will be involved as lecturers and workshop facilitators. They are UNE's Dr Julian Prior; Theo Nabben from Western Australia; and Victorians Mary Johnson of RMIT, Hamilton; former Australian Landcare Council member Bruce Lloyd, agroforester Rowan Reid; and ALI President Rob Youl, another forester by trade. African presenters will include Joseph Mutua, (Kenya); Charles Lyamchai, (Tanzania); Awadh Simon (Uganda); and Masingita Chauke, (South Africa).



ALI Website

ALI's website has taken shape and we are coming to grips with what to a younger generation is kid's play. We are always looking for relevant International Landcare news to add to it from time to time. See www.australianlandcareinternational.com

Some websites of interest

Canadian Landcare Alberta Stewardship Network www.landstewardship.org/ASN

German Landcare leader Josef Goepfel www.goepfel.de/english-specials

Landcare International www.worldagroforestry.org/projects/landcare/

Landcare South Africa www.nda.agric.za/docs/landcarepage/

New Zealand Landcare Trust www.landcare.org.nz/



UNCCD Cartoon. :

UN International Year of Landcare

Landcare International has called for a UN Declaration for an International Year of Landcare (IYL). Landcare International and ALI have pledged to promote the notion of an ILY where ever possible. The UN process is long and complex, with many more stages. But we are hopeful the IYL will eventuate



UNCCD Cartoon. :

These cartoons were part of an extensive outdoor display of cartoons from artists from many countries at the UN conference on the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Changwon, South Korea, in October 2001. We will bring you more in future Newsletters.

Become a member of ALI for only \$40 per year. Your \$40 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

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

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Send cheque or money order for \$40 to:
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32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East 3183

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