



December 2015

President's Message

When Australian Landcare International (ALI) formed in 2008, it had long been evident that many countries were interested in our Landcare program. It had established itself in some form in at least a dozen countries.

With this in mind, several veteran Landcarers decided to create a modest organisation through which the community could further promote Landcare overseas, and increase the momentum of its expansion.

At that time, with climate change becoming a major issue in Australia, there was no doubt that Australia had evolved a very useful, indeed innovative, program to mobilise communities, and that Australians were world-class networkers.

Looking back at our diverse activities and the expertise we have accumulated since then, I am very pleased – much

has happened – a lot of it thanks to Landcare pioneer, Horrie Poussard.

Moreover, I feel that ALI is entering a new and even more productive phase, with an expanding membership and some success with the OLF.

ALI has prepared plans before, and now we need to take stock and generate a new plan strongly endorsed by the committee. But we have to bear in mind that some opportunities come at very short notice, so we need to be flexible.

As I see it, these are the elements to cover:

- How to best use our volunteer members' skills, experience, enthusiasm and availability to travel overseas to advise and work on projects
- How to raise more funds for the OLF and follow-up donations from individuals, groups and philanthropists with reports and especially images to encourage continuing generosity – and do we have another go at crowdfunding?

- How to make politicians, philanthropists and bureaucrats better aware of ALI and its history and skills – in the past, at our own expense, we have visited Canberra, and this has paid off
- Continuing liaison with numerous Landcare and other entities, such as the Victorian Landcare Council, Australia's National Landcare Network, SILC, LAL, WAC – also known as ICRAF (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry), the African Landcare Network, Iceland Landcare, the NZ Landcare Trust, German Landcare, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, US Landcare and Secretariat to Promote the Establishment of Landcare in Japan (SPELJ) – and ACIAR, DAFF, DFAT and The Crawford Fund
- Do we need small teams to deal with SE Asia, Japan, the Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean – and countries such as Bhutan?
- There are obvious gaps: we do nothing in PNG and, despite lots of effort in the 2000s, Nauru. Both these countries bear the legacies of Australian economic, political and industrial development
- Communications: website, newsletters, social media, brochures, talking to groups and networks on their home ground (in our experience, one of the best ways to generate funds) – what is the right combination?
- Visitors will seek assistance with study tours from time to time
- Do we need a patron?
- Does Junior Landcare need a special approach? Remember that Julia Gillard, a friend and protégé of Joan Kirner, chairs the *Global Partnership for Education*, which reputedly has resources totaling \$38 billion
- Patrick Kaka is a fine co-ordinator in one of the world's toughest countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Malachy Tarpey and I have met him. He is never short of ideas for projects and he reports back. Could we nominate him as a special case for assistance?
- We have two good training models: master classes (think Melbourne 2006, Uganda 2011 and Malawi 2013) and short community courses (think Knockalva Agricultural College, Jamaica and Fiji 2015). How do we generate funds to do more of these?
- The Java-Mindanao exchange in 2014 worked really well – a genuinely new idea. Can we do more projects like this?
- We should have DGR status in 2016 – how do we exploit this to raise more funds?
- And finally, one for us oldies: How do we help the younger generation of technical people advance in their careers?

We wish you all the best for the Christmas season.

Rob Youl – President

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New ALI Committee

At our recent 7th AGM in November, the committee was refreshed with several new members. They replaced some long standing members who felt it was time to move on and allow others to get working for ALI

Horrie Poussard, who had been the inaugural secretary/treasurer, was happy to hand over to Sandra McPhee (Secretary) from Neerim, Gippsland and Paula Havelberg (Treasurer), previously with the Port Phillip EcoCentre. Horrie Poussard, Mary Johnson, Bruce Lloyd and John Robinson moved out and Sandra, Paula, Dr David Smith (ex-Melbourne University), Andrea Mason (from Clarendon, near Ballarat, Vic) and Ian Oxenford (from Kendal, NSW) joined the committee.

The new committee is :

President Rob Youl

Secretary Sandra McPhee

Treasurer Paula Havelberg

Committee Kaye Rodden, ,
Bernie Wonder,
Malachy Tarpey ,
Liz de Jonge,
Ian Oxenford,
David Smith,
Andrea Mason.

From local Landcare to international development

ALI member Dr Joanne Millar from Charles Sturt University gave an address at the AGM on her journey from her early work as a coordinator and agricultural adviser with Farm Tree and Landcare groups in north east Victoria to overseas work with AusAID, Asian Development Bank and ACIAR. Her expertise is in community development skills, honed from her work with rural community groups in Victoria and later Queensland where she initiated a Land For Wildlife program.

Jo provided the community development inputs (including social surveying, case studies and local training) for projects in Laos, Indonesia, East Timor and most recently Bhutan.



Laotian women farmers discuss village visits.

One of the first projects, in Northern Laos, focused on improving livestock development through better animal feeding and management.

Working with District and Provincial staff, farmer groups were set up and inter-village visits became the most effective method to improve farmer learning.

Jo also took on the role as community development adviser to a number of aquaculture projects. These included Indonesian projects on control of shrimp diseases and on diversification of coastal aquaculture.

In Laos on the Mekong River she worked on a project on impacts of fishways on local fish production.



Fisherman on lake near Mekong River

She has also worked to build the capacity of local advisors to carry out their programs.

Her most recent interest is in Bhutan where changing population and agricultural practices has meant

increased grazing of yak herds and significant land degradation through habitat destruction (for indigenous red pandas) and widespread landslips on steep land. Jo has been investigating several funding sources to support reclamation projects and ALI has supported her efforts. Hopefully that funding will be successful soon.



Landslips in Bhutan highlands

Her talk was much appreciated by those at the AGM.

Leaders are ladders and shoulders for younger people to see into the future – this is the legacy of leadership.

Dr Kanayo , President of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

For Communications

Send all material to Andrea Mason for website, Twitter and Facebook publishing:

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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:

9/2 Bath Street, Port Melbourne Vic 3207, 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