

**March 2014**



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.

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## ***President's Note***

### ***Landcare abroad- little by little***

Yesterday I met Dr Kazuki Kagohashi at Melbourne airport and took him to Westgate Park (my local Landcare group) then to St Kilda EcoCentre, ALI's home-away-from-home. Today, with Tomomi Maekawa, the Japanese PhD student studying at CSU Albury for a year, we visited Hume City Council reserves to see native grassland burning, re-vegetation, walking tracks and waterway management. Hawkes Bay NZ farmer-forester-writer-Landcare project manager Ewan McGregor came too – he is staying at our place.

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Over the next few days we all go to the Western District of Victoria and catch up with Mary Johnson at Penshurst and the local wetlands restoration group, Kaz and Tomomi will see Woody Yallock catchment, Lake Bolac Eel Festival, RMIT

University at Hamilton, Glenelg-Hopkins CMA and the Upper Barwon Landcare Network.

The following week they will visit Bass Coast Landcare Network and then head to North East Victoria with Horrie Poussard. They will be talking to Landcare group members, regional and network facilitators. Thanks to everyone who has welcomed them, and shared ideas and experiences with them.

Our Japanese team, also includes Professor Mick Seigel from Nanzan University, the Australian-born Catholic priest-diplomat-philosopher who has been an amazing stalwart and bridge between our two countries.

At our last ALI committee meeting we had three visitors: Amy Barrientos, Angelo Inodvino and Godfrey Ladu. Husband and wife Angelo and Amy live here half the year and the rest in Amy's native Colombia. In her home town Cartagena, one of the oldest European settlements in the Americas (1533), they run a schools program which is very much like some of our Junior Landcare programs. From South Sudan, Godfrey, a forester and timber technologist who worked for two decades in Melbourne, is now a businessman in his native country. He has been interested in Landcare for years. Afterwards, he and I spent some time, as yet unfulfilled, contacting DFAT to see if that department could utilise his skills.

We also had wonderful news that Crawford Fund will support ALI, working with the Landcare Foundation of the Philippine Islands (LFPI), to take a group of Indonesian famers from SELO Landcare project in Java to see Landcare

activities in central and southern Philippines later this year. Congratulations, Horrie, Vick and Noel! Moreover, the venture should help us in our quest to run a South-East Asian master class next year.

Looking back, these steps forward, with occasional backward slips, all mean Landcare is progressing internationally. Other recent positives include the Overseas Landcare Fund, which has now supported projects in seven Asian and African countries, and the recent strengthening of Pacific Landcare in Fiji, and its emergence in Tonga,

My great disappointment is that we have never managed to support Nauru. Given that millions of tonnes of Nauruan rock phosphate have helped us earn billions in farm exports. With Nauru's role in refugee settlement, I cannot see why we have neglected this island of which we have become part.

**Rob Youl,  
President, ALI**

### ***Landcare experience to be spread further in Tonga***

Last year we told you of the first Landcare group in Tonga – the village of Popua - which is beset by poor land and exposure to storm surges and flooding due to its low lying spot near the capital Nukualofa. Following a successful food garden and conservation project funded by Rotary Australia. Popua opted to take on the Landcare mantle. Crawford Fund supported some further training at the village in 2013.



*Low lying land on lagoon subject to storm surges.*

Now the NZ government has come forward, in partnership with Rotary Australia and Rotary NZ to scale up the Popua experience to three other villages. The project will run over three years and use total funds of about \$NZ 400 000. It will include conservation practices and food production gardens.

ALI members Bob Edgar and Horrie Poussard are continuing their links with Tonga under this new expanded project and will be on site in mid-2014 to assist with the initial activities needed. In addition, they will “workshop” a review and future plans with Popua villagers. For further information contact Bob Edgar at [redgar@netspace.net.au](mailto:redgar@netspace.net.au)

### ***Fiji going ahead at a fast pace***

In Fiji, WWF worked with local villagers to set up the initial Landcare groups two years ago. The stimulus for the development of Landcare was the need to reduce erosion and siltation flowing into nearby inlets and ocean areas, creating conservation problems for marine biodiversity. The surrounding lands were often steep, degraded with unstable agricultural practices. Stabilizing the landscape through community action

is leading to less run-off to foreshore areas and a more stable base for future food production.

Over the last year, several more groups have been formed. Maria Elder-Ratutokarua is the Agriculture and Forestry Policy Officer at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Fiji. She provided the following update:

*In terms of Landcare initiatives in Fiji, WWF has established more Landcare groups in Macuata-Northern Division and Nadroga- Western Division and these were formed in partnership with UNDP and Ministry of Agriculture under their Sustainable Land Management Project. some of the activities include the formation of landcare groups, formulation of landcare action plans and training on sustainable land management*

*The Land Use section of the Ministry of Agriculture has also established about 4 Landcare groups in Macuata, Bua, Cakaudrove and Serua and are focussing their activities on Sloping Land Management (SLM) on marginal lands and foreshore restoration.*

This partnership between government and WWF provides an effective way to focus action on the source of the problems and reduce the on-going damage done to marine biodiversity.

### ***Crawford supports Indonesians learning from the Philippines***

Recently a proposal was put by ALI to the Crawford Foundation to fund a training visit by 5 Indonesian Landcarers to look at both the practical aspects of good land management and the techniques used to enhance and expand community groups interested in Landcare. Crawford generously agreed and in August, five Indonesian Landcarers, led by ALI

member Victoria Mack, will be visiting the Philippines

The Philippines have developed a second-to-none Landcare program over the last 15 years resulting now in much better management of degraded hillsides, setting up local nurseries for indigenous and food plants, and the establishment of the Landcare Foundation of the Philippine Islands (LFPI) in Mindanao to guide the future of Landcare across the Philippines. Much of the progress in Landcare has been externally supported over the years by ICRAF and AusAID programs. Internally, local communities and advisers have worked hard to improve livelihoods and protect natural resources.



*Steep land management is one of the practices Indonesian and Philippine farmers deal with.*

So it was logical that other countries interested in Landcare in South East Asia should take advantage of the acquired experience and knowledge of land and water management in the Philippines.

The group will be going to Bohol and Northern Mindanao areas in the southern Philippines to learn more about the operation and experience of Landcare in those areas. Victoria, through her activities in her organisation SILC, helped start the original Landcare activities in Indonesia some years ago.

Indonesian Landcare at this stage is focused on a number of village groups in the Mt Merapi area of southern Java, not far from the city of Yogyakarta. Having taken the first steps, they are now looking to “grow” Landcare further.

### ***Keen start to Landcare in Japan.***

Professor Mick Seigel is an Australian priest from a rural background (Barooga NSW), NSW) who has been working in Japan for many years and is now a Research Fellow at Nanzan University in Nagoya. His field is social and environmental ethics and Landcare fits well into that study area.

He has brought several groups of his students to Australia to see the environmental issues and the role of Landcare in overcoming those concerns. He was also instrumental in organising a group of villagers from northern Philippines to visit the Landcare areas in Mindanao and learn about managing degraded land.

As reported last year, Prof Seigel, Prof Toshio Kuwako from Tokyo Institute of Technology, and several associates have launched the Secretariat to Promote the Establishment of Landcare in Japan. Vice-chairperson is Tomomi Maekawa, who is currently studying for her PhD at Charles Sturt University, Albury. Her studies on Landcare organisation will help the new movement get under way.

To further help the effort Dr Kazuki Kagohashi, a researcher working with Mick Seigel, recently arrived for a 3 week study tour of Landcare in Victoria. ALI members are accompanying him to Western Victoria, Bass Coast and Northern Victoria. Along the way, he will



be meeting regional and network coordinators, Departmental staff and Landcare group members. His focus is on:

*how Landcare activities has benefited people toward the improvement of local situations - for example, the state of natural resources /environment, the investment on physical capital assets, people's environmental awareness. Also I am interested in the working arrangements with the coordinators of Landcare and the role of Landcare networks. Following that line, I'm also keen to discuss what kind of resources the local Landcare groups have utilised to organise their autonomous activities and how they have developed their networks with other groups.*

With all this effort, Landcare has a good chance of taking off in Japan. Follow the progress of Landcare in Japan on <http://landcarejapan.com/en/nl/1.pdf>

## **Overseas Landcare Fund**

In July last year the Overseas Landcare Fund was launched by ALI and the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) . Its aim is to encourage donations from various sources to provide small grants to establishing Landcare activities in developing countries. We have received donations from Landcare groups and networks, private donors and some corporate support.

This has enabled ALI to provide grants to \$500 to eight projects in Asia and Africa, with a further two projects (in Laos and Cameroon) awaiting final approvals. We have been helped by bankmecu who donated \$1500 to cover the cost of funds transfer overseas.

The Fund has a small steering committee of ALI and VLC reps who

decide on appropriate projects and oversee the reporting requirements for each project.

We need more donations. This is a chance for any Landcare groups or networks with some unallocated funds to support the development of new groups, often in trying and poor rural conditions in developing countries. The types of projects to date include:

- wetland protection and improvement
- tree nurseries
- soil erosion control
- training on better resource management for conservation and food security
- protection of water supplies

Further information can be obtained from the ALI website [www.alci.com.au](http://www.alci.com.au) or from Rob Youl at [robmyoul@gmail.com](mailto:robmyoul@gmail.com)

## **Landcare International's new strategy**

Landcare International (LI) recently released a new strategy to provide direction on their activities for the next 5 years. LI sees its key activities to include:

### **1. Establishing and formalising regional networks.**

Networks will become important as they engage more prominently with the requirements of countries and support the development of Landcare groups. LI sees itself as having a role linking these networks in the future. It proposes the possibility of eight networks across the world – Australian, African,

Pacific, SE Asian, Asian, European, North American and Latin American.

**2. *Developing and implementing resources and training packages***

The Landcare Master class process provides an ideal platform to initiate and strengthen Landcare activities. Li is interested in the development of modular training packages to assist with future training in group and network needs.

**3. *Partnerships in Landcare.*** There are opportunities to scale up the success of Landcare from group to global levels. Interest by major global bodies like the UN, FAO and non-government organisations would lead to Landcare playing a major role across major world programs to help millions of people.

**4. *Capturing the success of Landcare.*** Through appropriate social and environmental measures there are opportunities to capture the value of Landcare to communities and to major issues like climate change, food security and biodiversity. Part of this activity is the need to research various methodologies and frameworks adopted by groups to achieve broad scale change practice.

Further information at [www.landcareinternational.net](http://www.landcareinternational.net)

***New website address***

To make life a little easier ALI has simplified its website address to read [www.alci.com.au](http://www.alci.com.au)

The old address will also get you to the website for a while longer. But we suggest you change your records now.

***National Landcare Conference in Melbourne***

The 2014 National Landcare conference will be in Melbourne on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September. It will be celebrating the history of Landcare – 25 years as a national program. While the focus will mainly be on Australian Landcare development, we are working hard to include international Landcare on the program as an outcome of the success of Landcare in Australia. Further information will be available from time to time at

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/>

***Landcare Notes helpful to new groups***

Australian Landcare Notes are a set of non-technical guides to help Landcare groups with their planning, management and operation. While the notes address issues relevant to Australian Landcare groups, they may also be of value for encouraging and supporting Landcare group development in other countries. They can be found at <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/for-groups/notes/>

Become a member of ALI .Your membership helps ALI keep up with what is happening globally and supports our website and other office costs.

## ***Annual Membership***

<b><i>Student or under 25</i></b>	<b><i>Free</i></b>
<b><i>Individual</i></b>	<b><i>\$20</i></b>
<b><i>Landcare or community group</i></b>	<b><i>\$40</i></b>

### ***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

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**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.....**

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Treasurer ALI:  
32 Loch Avenue, St Kilda East 3183 Vic , 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](mailto:treasurer@alci.com.au)**

Website: [www.alci.com.au](http://www.alci.com.au)