



Australian
Landcare
International

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.



September 2016

President's Message

As usual ALI is busy.

Our SPELJ colleague in Japan, Tomomi Maekawa, has gained her PhD from Tokyo Technical University. I just received a delightful letter thanking her many Australian friends for their help when she was here in 2014. Following Tomomi will be Ms Misato Imase from Nagoya University, here for six months from September to March to look at Landcare, volunteerism and environmental education, and help strengthen Japan-Oz links. Her first three weeks will be in Melbourne with the Youls, including the National Landcare conference. ALI members and Landcarers in general are welcome to invite her to look at projects and meet people. She will then move interstate from Victoria, firstly to NSW.

Prof Allan Dale (James Cook University), Jen Quealy and Rob Youl and possibly one other ALI member will go to Honshu in October-November to assist SPELJ plan an international Landcare conference for 2017 and to investigate if Australian Landcare post-disaster experience can help Japan. (SPELJ has covered Jen and Allan's flights.) Prof Mick Seigel has recovered well from a serious illness, which greatly compensates for our second unsuccessful bid for Australia-Japan Foundation funds – liaison is under way, and another approach is planned next year.

The Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) is being reviewed. In almost three years the OLF has paid out

\$16,500 to 28 projects in 13 countries, a useful achievement. Thanks to all who have helped, especially Horrie, Kaye, Paula and Treesh. ALI is rejigging the website, adding a crowd-funding app. I am seeking corporate and philanthropic donors, working with a friend to produce a YouTube video for website and producing a report.

Convening a red panda project in Bhutan, Dr. Jo Millar of CSU Albury has secured very large funding from the UK's Charles Darwin Foundation. ALI's steering committee rep is Horrie Poussard. The project now has a Bhutanese coordinator, and ALI will look later at some fund-raising via crowd-funding.

Dr Millar has also asked ALI to support an agroforestry project in Manatutu, Timor Leste, which we are happy to do. We will contact Friends of Manatutu, based in the City of Kingston, and be alert for fund-raising opportunities, and continue to support our existing Timorese group, Institutu Matadalan Integradu (*IMI*), a local NGO based in Gleno led by Leo Soares.

Andrea Mason is in South Africa and as I write is meeting Western Cape LandCare people before setting off on a holiday in regional countries.

The NZ government has committed substantial new funds to NZLT, and also set a goal to make NZ predator-

free by 2050, which surely gives great scope for action by NZLT groups

ACIAR's inclusion of ALI in its project: *Developing value chain innovation platforms to improve food security in East and Southern Africa* is a landmark for us. We are discussing with our Nairobi colleagues how ALI members might help this ACIAR project. We hope that two ALI members with special skills will go to Zambia in December to assist ICRAF with training in Landcare management, project development and farmer commerce.

At Melbourne's coming Landcare conference, a small group including Andrea Mason, Clinton Muller and myself will present a paper on a new Landcare training regime that includes participation by overseas people. And Jen Quealy is coordinating a paper on how Landcare can help communities after disasters.

Our South Pacific coordinator Ian Oxenford and also member Bob Edgar maintain contact with Fijian and Tongan colleagues to see if we can assist as the region recovers from its natural disasters.

Because we strongly believe in helping young people, we have told youth-oriented Intrepid Landcare, (which so far operates solely in NSW and Queensland) that we can foster joint activities, link it to our website

and where possible include young people in overseas activities.

Finally, in Colombia, Angelo and Amy Indovino's *Fundación Soñar+Verde* has signed a contract to implement environmental projects in ten Cartagena public schools, financed by the local EPA. The total number of participating schools is now 30.

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Collaboration is the key to success

ALI foundation members Mary Johnson and Noel Vock are part of a team including the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, University of the Philippines and RMIT University working on a project in Mindanao, southern Philippines – a long term conflict zone.

Mary and Noel have an extensive history working on Landcare and other activities in Mindanao, and with NGOs and Landcare groups which have been particularly strong in the southern Philippines for nearly 20 years.

The project is funded by ACIAR. The project, called the Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project (AMAEP) specifically investigates how community-based agricultural extension methods, developed in conflict vulnerable areas, can enhance villager livelihoods.

One of the project sites is Barangay¹ Magdaup in the municipality of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. The municipality has experienced on-going conflict for some years and farm households have high levels of malnutrition amongst children and mistrust amongst the community. The AMAEP promotes ongoing community engagement and project activities which are delivered by locally based and trained community facilitators.

Initially AMAEP community facilitators worked with farmers to assess the status

¹ Barangay is a district or ward (the smallest political unit in the Philippines)



by Judy Horacek

Put in your Diary

ALI is holding its 2016 AGM

On October 7th at 12 noon at the St Kilda EcoCentre.

Guest speaker Food.

New committee members are always welcome and there is a couple of spots to fill. It would be great if some young members were available.

of their farms and identify their aspirations for improved livelihoods.

Through that activity vegetable gardening was identified as a priority project for improving farmer livelihoods. As a result, the farmers have participated in training and other activities like Farmer Field Schools, farmer cross-visits, and hands-on technical practicals in vegetable production.



Christian and Muslim association members working together to plant seedlings.

Recently the farmers formed the Magdaup Vegetable Growers Association (MVGA). The association comprises predominantly women members and a combination of Muslims and Christians.

Interestingly, AMAEP facilitators observe that the relationship amongst the association's members has vastly improved since the formation of the group. Where previously, there seemed to be a lack of trust between Muslims and Christians, members are now keen to help each other. They not only visit each other's farms but also provide advice on how to improve vegetable production and address problems in the farms.

Significant achievements for association members have been the adoption of new technologies, such as the introduction of container gardening technology for crops. These vegetable growing enterprises have done well and provide increased levels of income generation, food security and nutrition. In addition the women members provide vegetables to their children to sell at school for lunch money.

Three key observations can be drawn from the Magdaup experience.

1. Women's communication and negotiation strengths. Mindanao women, often unrecognised by formal structures, are recognised informally by their local communities as negotiators, mediators, and advisers that act towards conflict resolution.
2. The capacity of women to accomplish activities that were previously regarded as a predominantly male role. In times

of conflict, when men's mobility is restricted or they are absent, women often take on the additional responsibilities of field-work or travelling to the market place to trade.

3. Trust levels between Christian and Muslim women have increased via their participation in group activities.

Importantly the MVGA members, dominated by Christian and Muslim women, both feel that collaboration is the key to success.

Great video on Landcare in Uganda . See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBTXbzT0A58>

After the Cyclone

In September 2014, ALI gave two OLF grants to local groups on Taveuni Island, in central Fiji. Our contact there was Jo and Geoff Dean, a Tasmanian family working with Australian Volunteers International. The projects set up shade houses to support local food security projects, by growing vegetable seedlings and local flowering tree and understory plants as food plants for bees and biodiversity. The Deans returned to Tasmania at the end of 2014.

In February this year, Cyclone Winston - a category 5 cyclone hit Fiji. It was the most powerful to ever be experienced in the Southern Hemisphere, recording a maximum wind speed of 306 km/hr. Extensive damage occurred on Taveuni

Island and we were all interested to see if the ALI projects were still operating in the wake of the cyclone. During April this year, the Dean family returned to Taveuni to assist with re-establishing food security activities affected by the cyclone. They provided an approved range of vegetable seeds from Australia. They had raised funds before leaving home and could also provide seven villages and settlements with gardening tools, fishing gear and carpentry tools to assist with rebuilding and feeding village communities. During two weeks nine communities were visited conducting discussion groups and establishing seedling nurseries. The seedlings have now been transplanted into individual gardens.



The Navakawau Youth Group establishing seedling nursery for village food security.

They also visited previous projects and saw that progress had been made! The Somosomo area suffered less damage from Cyclone Winston and the community were continuing to grow local

flowering trees and shrubs for revegetation on the island, supporting the newly established apiarist industry and also biodiversity values.



Delores Peterson (left) Lena Matatoga (right), Jo Dean and students of Somosomo Primary School proud of the local tree species being grown for re-vegetation and providing nectar for local bee-hives.

Damage had occurred at Naselesele with a tree falling on the greenhouse. However at a fun morning they worked alongside the food security group to gather together the pieces and then planned for a new location of the structure to suit community needs.

Jo said it was wonderful to see everyone again and participate in the rebuilding **#strongerthanwinston**. For further information visit the Facebook page **Ride for Fiji**.

Overseas Projects

Through our Overseas Landcare Fund we have been able to support 28 projects in 13 countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Most of the donors have been Landcare groups giving \$500 - \$1000 to a project. Some Australian Landcare groups are now providing funds on a continuing basis each year to “their” overseas community groups. ALI has personal contact with the recipient groups and we are confident the funds are used well.

We notice that there are a lot of funds sitting around in Landcare group bank accounts that are now unused. They could be doing good helping overseas community groups to do local Landcare activities.

Any interested Australian Landcare group or individual can contact Horrie Poussard at poussard@iinet.net.au or Rob Youl robmyoul@gmail.com for further info.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, now is a good time. No increased subs this year!.



www.facebook.com/Australianlandcare



ALI@AusLandcareInt



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 Place, Port Melbourne 3207 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