



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.



## December 2018

### Seasons Greetings from the Chair

With one meeting under my belt, I am very confident that our new team will be able to work together well to enhance the fantastic foundation Horrie and Rob have set up in the past 10 years. Our focus is on strengthening our position and being prepared to grow. With Rob relieved of the bureaucratic responsibilities of office, he is now free to spend more time developing projects and partnerships that will benefit our overseas Landcare friends and provide a focus for our future. As such, Rob will continue to give the updates for this newsletter. From the team at ALI – best wishes for the festive season and a very happy New Year.

Andrea Mason

### Deputy chair's report

I write hours after Andrea has finished her first ALI meeting in the chair, with Belinda a very focussed and experienced secretary.

Several news items. Dr Mary Johnson (RMIT University) and Clinton Muller are engaged in an ACIAR survey of Landcare in six countries: the Philippines, Fiji, Uganda, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Backed by Landcare Victoria Inc, ALI's small projects fund has, over five years, raised \$50 000 for 40 small projects in 16 countries. Landcare groups and networks, individuals and local organisations provide resources. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed. Recently we transferred \$5200 for bicycles for Landcare co-ordinators in the Zambian Copperbelt.

I have approached the UK Queens Canopy program about a revegetation project linking Uganda and Kenya, a concept arising from the August training course in Uganda. If successful, this

would include an Australian study tour for at least four Kenyan and Ugandan project managers.

Most importantly ALI needs paid co-ordination. We continue to pursue this goal politically.

Prof Mick Seigel, well recovered from oesophageal cancer two years ago, and a Japanese-Italian friend, Elena Tokimoto Ricciuli, as support, competed in this year's Massive Murray Paddle. They covered 108 kilometres, raising, when the pledges come in, at least \$500. Well done, Mick and Elena! Further donations welcome.

My thanks to retired overseas aid worker Ian Oxenford for his service on the ALI committee for several years. Resident in NSW and patiently enduring the limits of Skype and other communications systems, he gave us useful advice and furnished several useful contacts.

November saw us host two overseas scientists, Dr Prossy Isubikalu from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda and Dr Nghia Nguyen of Can Tho University in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Both were in Australia under an ACIAR fellowship program.

Prossy, who lectures in agricultural extension, participated in the recent Landcare training in eastern Uganda with Belinda Brennan, Jason Alexandra, David Curry and ICRAF staff led by Mieke Bourne. I took her to Maroondah catchment, Bass Coast and Yarram Yarram Landcare Networks, Bob and Anne Davies' farm Bimbadeen near

Cowes, Paul Speirs' restored streamsidés at Archies Creek, David MacAulay's dairy farm on the Albert River at Staceys Bridge, Doug and Julie Parke's smallholding at Mardan, Ballarat Tree Growers' AGM and Andrea and Ken Mason's property. Plus Westgate Park. She made friends everywhere and shared her own experiences freely.



Pictured is Rob Youl Australian Landcare International, Prossy Isubikalu and Albert River Landcare Group member David MacAuley.

I met Nghia as he happened to be travelling with Prossy. He is a soil biologist who grew up on a farm. During his early childhood, his father was away for years with the Viet Cong. Nghia trained in Sweden and Germany. When Horrie Poussard took him to the Yarra Valley he enjoyed chatting in German to a family of tourists. His first contact with Landcare impressed, and Nghia is keen to investigate and promote its benefits to the Delta community.

Finally, recently I met a young PNG woman at South Melbourne market when getting my phone fixed - she runs

the shop. Her father, who is the administrator of West Sepik province, and based in Wewak, has started a community foundation. I got in touch with him and will follow this up, as we really need projects in PNG.

Rob Youl

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## Supporting recovery



As Rob says (above), Mick and Elena, 'The Bounce Back Team No 129', have completed their adventure and survived to tell the tale! Congratulations. You can still pledge your support for their 106 kms at <https://alci.com.au/massive-murray-paddle-2018/>



Mick reported, "We realised after a practice beforehand that the goal we should set for ourselves was one leg per day, and we achieved that."

## Volunteers or weeds?

When working on environmental issues, we inevitably have to make choices about what to do and how to expend our precious resources. The advice is often to focus on the volunteers and trust them to work on the tasks. This can feel risky but without volunteers, nothing happens and with them, incredible things can happen.

The Victorian Government has been trying to help organisations increase the volunteering for many purposes, including caring for the environment. The new plan is available in a range of formats at

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/home/victorians-volunteering-for-nature>

## New address

ALI has changed postal address to:

PO Box 1374

Traralgon VIC 3844 Australia

thanks to the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

## 2019 Biosecurity Symposium



“Hosted by Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Invasive Species Council (ISC) and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS), the theme of the Symposium is preventative biosecurity practices and will focus on research and innovation, outside-of-the-box thinking and the exchange of knowledge and ideas across the biosecurity collective – agriculture (animals and plants), pest animals, weeds, wildlife, aquatics and the environment.”

For more information visit

<https://bit.ly/2rrTzde>

## Overseas Landcare Fund

The current OLF committee is

- Clinton Muller
- Rob Youl
- Christine Brooke (Landcare Victoria)
- Phil Horner

The Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) provides small grants of \$500 – \$1000 for projects being carried out by establishing Landcare groups in developing countries. We use a known person or agency we can trust to see the funds are spent wisely in-country.

Landcare Victoria Inc. is a co-founder of the OLF program.



Projects Already Funded – see

<https://alci.com.au/overseas-landcare-fund/olf-funds-and-projects/>

For further information, email the ALI Secretary at:

<mailto:secretary@alci.com.au>

### Give the Gift of Landcare this Christmas!

To donate simply fill in the form on our website

<https://alci.com.au/christmas-giving> then download the gift certificate.

For further information please contact:

[secretary@alci.com.au](mailto:secretary@alci.com.au) or phone 0409 004 901.



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THIS CERTIFICATE REPRESENTS A  
DONATION OF \$  
MADE ON YOUR BEHALF TO  
**AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**Overseas Landcare Fund**

# THANK YOU

Your generous gift will help to encourage local groups to work together to improve their land management, local biodiversity and food security.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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