

SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL LANDCARE (SILC) INC

**The SILC road
1998–2018**

A 20 year journey with international Landcare



Secretariat for International Landcare (SILC)

SILC wishes to thank the many people who have supported SILC since 1998.

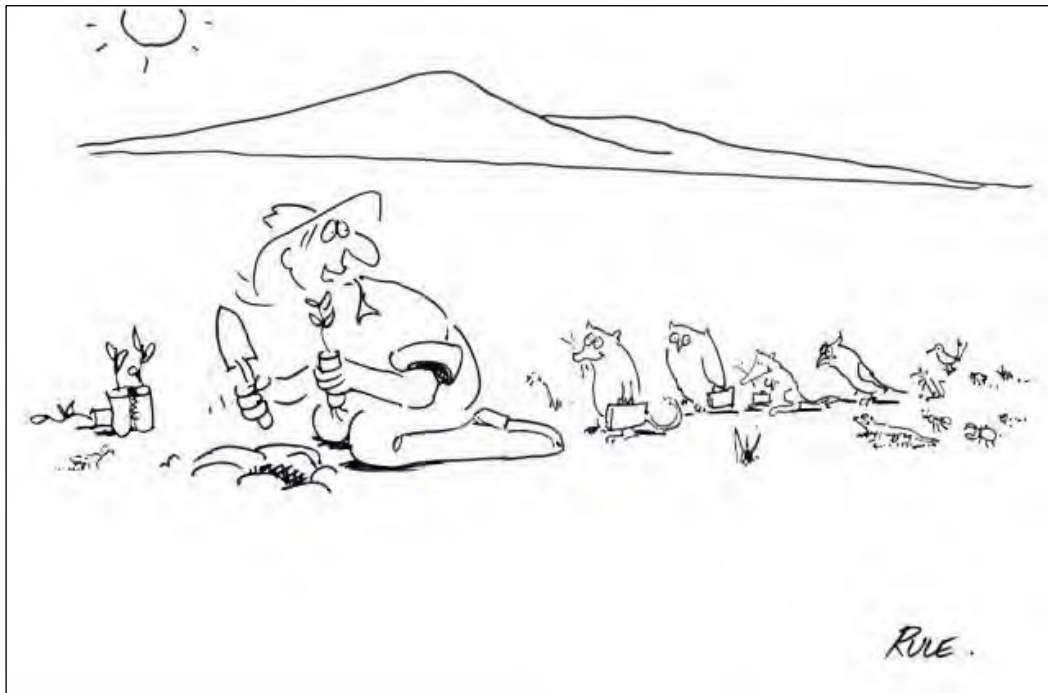
Particular acknowledgement is extended to:

The late Geoff and Helen Handbury

The Crawford Fund

The founding SILC Board of:

- Julian Cribb
- Stuart Hill
- Mary Johnson
- Christine Lever
- Victoria Mack
- Sue Marriott
- Lyn Milne



First published in 2017—Updated July 2024.

SILC merged with Global Landcare Inc. in 2018.

Front cover: International Delegates at the 2012 National Landcare Conference in Sydney

From Left: (back row): Ezaz Rana (Pakistan), Sue Marriott (SILC), Asia Gulnaz (Pakistan), Jashim Uddin (Bangladesh), Sheik Tanveer Hossain (Bangladesh), Kamal Melvani (Sri Lanka), Moragoda Kankanamalage Nandasene (Sri Lanka), Sutar (Indonesia), Pradeep Liyanamana (Sri Lanka), Jerry Moles (Virginia USA) and Zahoor Aslam (Pakistan)

From Left: (front row): Hannes Muller (South Africa), Victoria Mack (SILC), Jan Smit (South Africa), Nick Edgar (New Zealand), Uyung Pramudiyanto (Indonesia), Sartono (Indonesia) Mubarak Yaqub (Pakistan)

Absent: Beate Krettinger (Germany)

Secretariat for International Landcare (SILC)

When we started in 1998 we had no idea how far sharing Landcare ideas around the world would go. It is fantastic that international Landcare is still going. It is also wonderful to see other people and groups adding to the movement with thoughts, ideas and actions that can, and will, provide a way for people to look after their own part of the planet.

SILC has been on a journey with many people with ideas, passion, vision and persistence. The journey has encouraged and celebrated the actions of many dedicated people, most of them volunteers. When we have asked people around the world “where do you want to live?” the answer is commonly that they all want to stay in their own country if they could make things better.

This Landcare story goes in many directions and on many roads. Networks have been created and new friendships formed. People achieve change together. They learn and grow and make a difference. It is called Landcare.

Landcare in Australia is a generally a three way partnership involving government, academia and the community of Landcare groups. When any one of these components is missing then Landcare slows down.

A key to successful “primary” Landcare is that “you don’t have to ask permission” to start a group and work through the range of issues that the group want to “address”.

Ideally Landcare is formed in partnership with all levels of government and academia so that, at the grass roots level, Landcare communities can be supported while they identify and control their work. Landcare facilitators have also proven to be a vital tool in Landcare success.

It is essential that Landcare communities set the agenda for the academic and research questions.

With 30 years of Australian Landcare experience, and thousands of groups operating Australia wide, we have much to be proud of. While International Landcare has been acknowledged by various Australian governments over the years, all have lacked an appreciation of Landcare’s potential internationally.

The 1999 Lloyd review looked into how Australian Landcare might support International Landcare. However the review’s final report stated clearly that Australian funds should not be used in International Landcare and should be preserved for Australian Landcare alone. So that it why, with a few exceptions, Australia has not invested in what could have been one of our most significant social, environmental and economic exports.

We see international Landcare as a means to help people to help themselves.

Not that they do not need external support, they do, but they need to be in the driving seat. It is well documented that local Landcare facilitators play a valuable role in Landcare development.

Once people become active and start to set their own agenda and achieve their goals, it is amazing and not surprising that government and non-government organisations get involved.

This publication was prepared for the 2017 Japan Landcare conference where hopefully an exciting vision for the future of Landcare internationally will be strengthened.



Timeline of significant events

1984	Potter Farmland Plan commences (concluded in 1988).
1986	Victorian Landcare commenced.
1987	Hamilton Region 2000 commenced.
1989	National Landcare Program 1989 commenced.
1989	HEAL commenced.
1992	WRIST commenced.
1994	HEAL Rural Industries Research and Development (RIRDC) report.
1995	Churchill Fellowship - Sue Marriott.
1997	South Africa delegation visited Australia. Attended South Australian Landcare Conference.
1998	Washington Women in Agriculture Conference.
1998	SILC commenced.
1998	South Africa Farm Planning workshops—John Marriott.
1999	FAO Soil Fertility Initiative Rome—Victoria Mack & Sue Marriott attended.
1999	Landcare Study Tour Philippines—Mary Johnson and Christine Lever attended.
1999	SILC— commenced hosting delegations; country visits; and speaking engagements.
2000	First International Landcare Conference Melbourne—45 international delegates.
2003	Darwin Landcare Conference.
2004	Landcare International formed.
2006	2nd International Landcare Conference & Masterclass—85 international delegates attended.
2008	Tasmania Landcare Conference.
2008	Australian Landcare International formed
2009	Indonesia Landcare formed.
2010	South Australian Landcare Conference attended by international delegates from Africa.
2010	Sri Lanka Landcare Lanka launch—Victoria Mack & Sue Marriott attended with Jerry Moles and delegates.
2011	Sri Lanka and Bangladesh visit—launch Landcare Bangladesh—Victoria Mack & Sue Marriott attended
2012	Sydney National Landcare Conference—13 international delegates.
2013	Sri Lanka visit - making film “Rediscovering the Country” by SheOak Films. .
2013	Pakistan Landcare launched.
2014	Crawford Philippines Indonesia Study Tour in the Philippines.
2016	Asian Productivity Organisation Conference Bali, and visit Timor Leste—Victoria Mack .
2017	Japan International Landcare Conference.
2018	SILC and Australian Landcare International merged to form Global Landcare Inc.



Above: Soil - the bottom line on which everything depends. Soil health is one of Landcare's greatest challenges, **below:** In memory of the late Peter Duncan, of Windloft, Deltota, Sri Lanka, who at the age of 89 decided to plant a forest with the help of the Kamy Melvani of the NeoSynthesis Research Centre (NSRC), **below right** Peter Duncan with Sue Marriott.



The environmental challenges facing Australia

In the post war era in Australia there was growing awareness of environmental and farmland degradation primarily caused by erosion, salinity, feral animals, tree and water quality decline, biodiversity loss—and farm productivity issues.

These continue today but Landcare, which commenced in 1986, has provided a platform on which land owners and the community can take collective action on identified risks to land, water, air and biodiversity.



The Potter Farmland Plan 1984-1988

The Potter Farmland Plan, funded by the Ian Potter Foundation and participating farmers, commenced in 1984 to establish demonstration farms to show how farmers could rethink land use practices for both environmental sustainability and increased farm productivity. These two forces were understood by the program to be mutually inclusive.

The project was located in three areas of western Victoria: Wando Vale; the Dundas Tableland; and Glen Thompson. Each of these districts suffered from various forms of environmental degradation.

The drivers of the project were a group of passionate and talented people from government and private sector institutions brought together by an idea to address on-farm degradation.



Above: the Helm View whole farm plan.

Andrew Campbell was appointed as Project Manager and John Marriott as the Works Supervisor.

Between 1984 and 1988, when the project was completed, 15 demonstration farms had been established based on a *whole of farm planning approach* to land management and farm productivity.

The Potter Farmland Plan undeniably played a significant part in supporting the emergence of the Landcare movement which commenced in Victoria in 1986.

Acknowledgement must be made of the dedication and commitment of the late John Jack, Peter Matthews, and Pat Fielman. There were many others whose vision endures today through the growth of Landcare in Australia and internationally.

The impact of the Potter Farmland Plan can also be seen extending into areas that the founders may not have foreseen. This publication touches on some of the wider influences of the Potter Farmland Plan.

Photo below: an aerial photo of Helm View in 2005, twenty years after commencement.



The Potter Farmland Plan project included the farm known as Helm View, owned by the Milne family. The property had been severely cleared from the 1930s with valuable red gum trees removed to provide timber for construction needs. Those trees without timber value were ringbarked and left standing. These photos demonstrate what can be achieved to restore the farm's health and biodiversity over 30 years.

Below: Helmview Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farm—1970.



Below: Helmview Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farm—1984.



Below: Helm View— Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farm—1990.



Below: Helm View— Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farm—2004.



Hamilton Region 2000 and the Wool & Rural Industries Skill Training Centre

Hamilton Region 2000 (HR2000) was an initiative of the Potter Farmland Plan and was funded by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. It commenced in 1987 with the aim of working with people in rural towns to raise awareness of their reliance on the environmental health and productivity of the farms.

Victoria Mack was appointed as the first HR2000 community facilitator with the first action being to initiate a series of community discussion groups across the Hamilton region. Hamilton Region 2000 facilitated many community projects with two in particular of note.

These were the Wool & Rural Industries Skills Training (WRIST) Centre; and the Hamilton Environmental Awareness and Learning (HEAL) Project.

WRIST was the vision of a group of Hamilton district farmers who saw that there was limited best practice education and training available for farmers across south-east Australia. WRIST was established by the farmers as a training centre of excellence for the rural industries to provide farmers with new knowledge and ideas, farming practices and technology.

By 1992 the WRIST centre was officially formed with a Board of Management, modest funding, and an office at Hamilton's Pastoral and Veterinary Institute. State funding resulted in a dedicated training centre being constructed in 1996. WRIST continues today under the name of the Rural Industries Skill Training Centre (RIST) and is one of Australia's largest independent vocational agricultural colleges.

Victoria Mack became the Executive Director of WRIST in 1993. Sue Marriott joined WRIST to establish the Land Management Unit in 1994 and Christine Lever and Mary Johnson joined WRIST as program facilitators in 1995. HR2000 was wound up in approximately 2004.

Right: WRIST staff in 2006 from left: Mary Johnson, Helen Carran, Christine Lever, Victoria Mack and Sue Marriott.



Hamilton Environmental Awareness and Learning (HEAL) Inc

In 1988 when the Potter Farmland Plan was nearing completion there were still many enquiries from people wanting to visit the demonstration farms.

The Potter Farmland Plan Executive had facilitated the delivery of “whole farm” planning short courses by the Glenormiston Agricultural College, and the production of an educational video entitled *On borrowed time*, however, they had not made provision for ongoing demand for visits to the demonstration farms.

Sue Marriott saw an opportunity to establish an eco-tourism and farm-tourism venture subsequently called HEAL to showcase projects and farms across western Victoria with the central theme being the Potter Farmland Plan.

HEAL was established in 1989 and provided an extension service for farmers and farmer groups. Tours covered: whole farm planning and farm layout according to the land’s capabilities; different ways to plant trees; better fencing techniques; and for students raising awareness and understanding of conservation agriculture and rural environmental issues.

Greening Australia Victoria provided initial funding. Funding flexibility allowed the HEAL project to work effectively over a number of years. HEAL was incorporated in 1989 with a small Committee of Management.



Left: Sue Marriott with a future generation of land managers.

Below left: MPs Tony Abbott and David Hawker with Sue Marriott to the Potter Farmland Plan farms in 1995.

Below right: Landowner Bruce Milne talking to farmers visiting Helm View in 1994.



MEMBER for Wannon, David Hawker (left), Member for Warringah, Tony Abbott and Sue Marriot from the Wool and Rural Industries Skill Training centre. Mr Abbott visited the Wannon electorate last Friday to inspect Western Victorian developments in industry and agriculture.





Paul Stevens, of Greening Australia, on a disused section of rail line, now part of a pilot rehabilitation program at Hamilton. Pictures: MARK GRIFFIN

HEAL plans to restore the land

TURNING back the tide of land degradation has become a passion for community groups all over Australia.

Nowhere is the "land care" catchcry more prominent than in the Hamilton region of south-western Victoria, home of the highly acclaimed Potter Farmland Plan and a host of other land rehabilitation projects.

Hamilton Region 2000 Inc.,

a community group supported by the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Trust, has for the past 2½ years been spearheading "grass roots" programs involving local people in community development.

The latest project, under the title HEAL — Hamilton Environmental Awareness and Learning — has secured a \$35,000 grant from Greening Australia to help increase en-

vironmental awareness in the community.

HEAL co-ordinator Sue Marriott said the Hamilton region, like many areas of Australia, had suffered from the demise of our native fauna, flora and culture.

"The race is now on to save what remains and to look at producing food and fibre in a sustainable environment," Mrs Marriott said.

One of the better known projects in the region is underway at the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning and involves protecting the habitat of the Eastern barred bandicoot and a significant stand of natural grassland.

A program with statewide implications is the disused railway project which is seeking to restore corridors of natural vegetation throughout the country.

The railway reserve work at Hamilton is one of two pilot studies to show the benefits of revegetating barren reserves and providing shelter for wildlife and stock.

West of Hamilton, overlooking the township of Coleraine, is the Peter Francis Points Arboretum, one of the largest collections of eucalypt species in the world.

"The Points", as it is known, covers 37 ha of crown land reserve and is planted out to a wide range of rare and unusual Australian natives, including species from the dry inland, the tropical north from Queensland to the Kimberly, alpine areas and the rich moist gullies of the south eastern ranges.

An offshoot of the Points is a demonstration showing the importance of selecting trees for particular sites and purposes.

Another project, run by Bill Sharp, of Rural Trees Australia, is showing spectacular results by using local seed collections and experiments to find successful direct seeding methods.

An extension of the Potter Farmland Plan, now reaping the success of its focus on long term sustainable agriculture, it is also looking at added value products such as native timbers for cabinet making.



Botanist Neville Bonney in the midst of Eucalyptus preissiana at the "Points".



Trees expert Bill Sharp in among some 1984 planted eucalypts.



DARA veterinarian Cor Lenghaus works on the Eastern barred bandicoot program.



Farmer Peter Waldron, of Melville Forest, cuts into an old redgum log in a project looking at added value products.



Sue Marriott, coordinator of the HEAL project, and John Cleary, Friends of the Points, inspect one of the arboretum's hothouse plants.

Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Churchill Fellowship and Landcare South Africa.

In 1993 HEAL decided to evaluate the service it was providing to farmers and students. HEAL was awarded a Rural Industries Research and Development (RIRDC) grant and John Cary from the University of Melbourne conducted the research. The study was completed in 1994 it showed that 69% of people who participated in a HEAL tour between 1989 and 1993 returned home and physically did something on their farm, in their workplace or in their community.

These actions accelerated landcare group formation, local action and a growing awareness of Landcare across the landscape and the community.

The RIRDC findings resulted in Sue making an application to The Churchill Trust to investigate other projects overseas that 'turned awareness into action'.

In 1995 Sue's three-month Fellowship took her to South Africa, Poland and the United Kingdom. In South Africa she met English woman Elaine Spencer-White. Elaine had heard about the Australian Landcare program from Helen Alexander Australia's second National Landcare Facilitator.

Landcare South Africa: South Africans were attracted to the Landcare idea. Sue, Elaine, Keith Taylor and others discussed how a South African delegation might explore Landcare in Australia.

The main selection criteria was to include people in the delegation from different disciplines including media, academia, community, farming and government so that they could be matched in Australia with their relevant counterparts.

In 1997, by this time Sue was working with WRIST, thirteen delegates from South Africa visited Australia on a three-week study tour. They returned to South Africa and by 1999 Landcare became a National program under the National Poverty Relief fund.

Below: Fourteen South African Delegates, including 2 Americans. Photo at the WRIST Centre in 1997.



Landcare South Africa

Landcare South Africa continues today with its own Landcare model adapted to meet their specific needs. It is also a major contributor to the extension of Landcare across sub-Saharan Africa.

The South Africans conducted a competition when visiting Australia to choose an appropriate logo for their Landcare program. Australia entered with a design based on the Australian Landcare logo. It was successful and Landcare South Africa was formally adopted, at right.

The delegation returned to South Africa and set about making South African Landcare a reality.

By 1999, the project was legislated with government support. It is considered that one reason why this was so successful was that the delegates came from many disciplines and agencies: government, farming, media, community, corporate and donors.

Landcare South Africa continues today.

Photo right: Bruce Milne speaking to the South African delegation in 1997.

Photo below: The whole delegation with some Australian participants in the Study Tour.



South Africa—MapAware training 1998



John Marriott above, and below left: He presented three farm planning and mapping courses in South Africa in 1998.

Land use planning and mapping is essential to making the best use of the land.

Below: No care and Landcare, courtesy of the South African Landcare program.



Secretariat for International Landcare (SILC)



After the visit by the South Africans in 1997, it was decided to investigate setting up an organisation that could support Landcare enquiry from other parts of the world.

In 1998 Sue Marriott explored the opportunity of establishing an international Landcare organisation which was later to be called SILC. In that year Victoria Mack, Mary Johnson and Christine Lever joined SILC and together with Julian Cribb, Stuart Hill and Lyn Milne formed the Board of SILC.

SILC received a start up grant from the late Helen and Geoff Handbury. The funds were dedicated to the promotion of Landcare Internationally. Their donation made this story possible and SILC wishes to acknowledge their generous support.

Since 1998 many study tours were organised for groups from overseas to visit Australia and learn about Australian Landcare. Delegates met Australians involved in nurturing and growing the Landcare movement including roles in policy, governance, processes, funding and on ground group support.

Small and large groups and individuals visited from China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, United States of America, Iceland, New Zealand, Germany, Philippines, Fiji and many African countries. SILC directors also visited many countries to speak at conferences, attend seminars, meet with key agencies and learn from on-ground practitioners in these countries.

In 1998 Sue and Victoria attended the Women in Agriculture conference in Washington. The conference led to an invitation to make a presentation at the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome in 1999. At the same time Mary and Christine were invited to visit the Philippines as part of a Landcare investigation and advisory delegation.

SILC, through Mary Johnson, has had an ongoing association with the Philippines Landcare program which commenced in 1999 and which is ongoing.

SILC played a major role in supporting the participation of international delegates to the 2000 and 2006 International Landcare Conferences held in Melbourne. SILC also supported the attendance of 13 international delegates to the Sydney Landcare Conference and study tour in 2012. Delegates came from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the United States of America.

From 1999 SILC hosted many groups to Australia including from China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Left: Rob Youl with a Sri Lankan delegation.

Bottom left: Sue Marriott, Mary Johnson and Victoria Mack with a Chinese delegation.

Below: Mary Johnson with Philippines delegation.



2000—First International Landcare Conference in Melbourne

The Team



*Victoria Mack, Sue Marriott, Mary Johnson, Chris Rinehart,
John Muir, Ashley Sewell, Noel Vock, Dennis Garrity, Rob Youl.*

The ASIA/AFRICA/USA/AUSTRALIA LANDCARE 2000 Report

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2006 - Second International Landcare Conference in Melbourne and Crawford Fund Landcare Master Class



Photo above: International delegates who attended two pre-conference study tours.



Photo above: Crawford Fund Landcare Master Class 2006 which followed the Conference —Back row L-R: Rob Youl, Victoria Mack, Charles Lyamchai, Henry Ndlovu, Jeffrey Scott Kauha, Sizwe Mkhize, Theo Nabben, Eldon Ruiz, Julian Prior, Arturo Massol-Deya
Middle row: Tuali Mmbaga, Kamal Melvani, Paul Ferrar, Claire Rhodes, Jackie Bowe, Agnes Kyalo, Richard Holt, Edgardo Gonzalez, Tirwomwe Wilberforce Johnson and Ma Aurora Laotoco
Floor: Joseph Mutua, David Robertson, Karen Zirkler, Saminathan Vaheesan and Sue Marriott
Front: Etika Sing, Apisai Ucuboi, Francis Areki, Francis Alinyo, Vinci Clodumar, Inoke Ratukalou and Taniela Hoponoa.
(Photo edited by Victoria Mack).

2010—Adelaide National Landcare Conference



Photo above: Delegates attending the conference from Africa and Australia with Landcare International Chairman Dennis Garrity and the Honourable Tony Burke, Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Below left: Sue Marriott with Rob Youl and an African delegate.



Above: The late Horrie Poussard and Mary Johnson.

2012—Sydney National Landcare Conference



International delegates attending the Sydney Landcare Conference in 2012 were supported by AusAID's International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS. This was a terrific program that enabled international visitors to study in Australia.

(Unfortunately ISSS no longer exists but the many benefits afforded to international participants from attending the Sydney Conference are ongoing).

Top left: Pakistan delegates Mubarak Yacub and colleagues.

Top right: Bangladesh delegates Sheik Tanveer Hossain and Jashim Uddin with Sue Marriott and Mary Johnson.

Centre left: South African delegates Hannes Muller and Jan Smit.

Centre right: Indonesian delegates Sartono, Uyung Pramudiyanto and Sutar.

Left: Indonesian delegates Sarto, Sutar and Uyung Pramudiyanto at the Sydney wholesale vegetable market with Victoria Mack.

Landcare Bangladesh Sylhet Region

Supported by: **Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB)**
The Secretariat for International Landcare [SILC] Inc and
The NeoSynthesis Research Centre



Landcare Coordinator Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain
Sustainable Agriculture Advisor, FIVDB, Bangladesh



Launch of Landcare Bangladesh 2013

Landcare Bangladesh



Bangladesh farmers are generally very poor with barely enough food to meet their basic needs. Landcare Bangladesh initially set out to improve land utilisation around houses by creating small plot management plans for each farmer and farm family to improve productivity. Simple mapping and implementation plans were followed with good results. Composting was also introduced as well as bag / sack farming and duck farming. FIVDB facilitators play a big role in helping farmers adopt and sustain new farming practices.



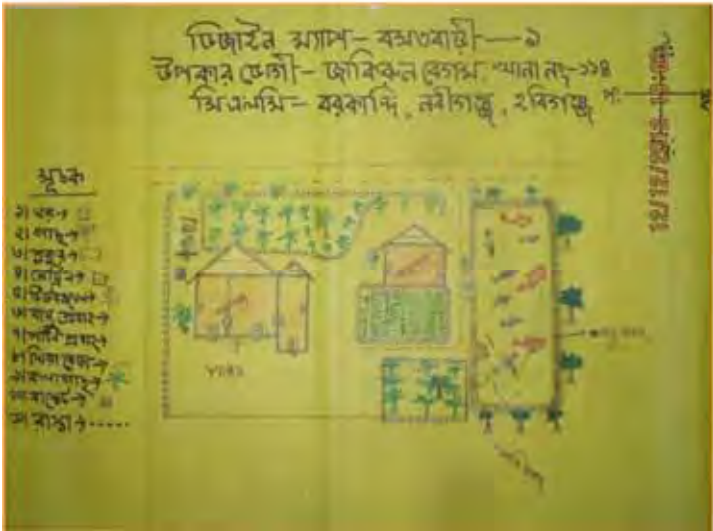
Photos: top, making maps of household plots, **above**, small holder sack technology, **upper right** - meeting farmers and facilitators at Sylhet, **right**, sack technology, **below**, increased land utilisation of small spaces.



Landcare Bangladesh



Above: Food sack technology, utilising small spaces and **below:** before and after photos of home garden mapping on left and the practice on the right.



Landcare Bangladesh



Photo left: Organic farmer group at Sylhet.

Photos below showing two examples of improved land utilisation within 12 months of commencement.

**Model House
Moddanhall Community Learning Center (CLC)**



Previous condition



Present condition

**Model House (Mubisana Devi)
Vandarigao Community Learning Centre**



Previous condition



Present condition

Landcare in Iceland

Iceland's past history shows that much of its wooded areas have diminished significantly and soil and ecosystems have become severely degraded. Needing a new approach to overcoming the problem the broad aspects of Australian Landcare became a focal point. The idea of Landcare where communities and government departments work together became a reality in the 1990s.

Iceland has a major overgrazing problem due to a long tradition of community grazing plus a cold climate than makes it difficult to easily and naturally redress the effects of overgrazing. The soil erosion problems that result have been a major focus for the developing community based approach to better land management. Landcare came to Iceland in the 1990s following contact with Australian Landcare. Arctic Landcare sees its way to progress by combining agricultural productivity programs with those to repair land degradation in order to achieve sustainable land management. Reference: Global Landcare.

Photo left: erosion in Iceland; and **right:** community planting teams.



Landcare in Germany



The German Association for Landcare (DVL) is the umbrella organisation for Landcare. Under this Landcare umbrella 155 Landcare organisations across Europe exist. One of its key strengths is informing and influencing decision makers at all steps from local governments to the Commission of the EU

Landcare Australia and Landcare Germany were founded about the same time and with a similar approach. A personal contact in Australia brought both organisations together.

Although the natural background is different in both countries there are a lot of similarities in the organisations. An exchange of experiences and innovative ideas contribute to the work of Landcare in Australia and in Germany.

In September 2011 the Landcare Facilitator Brett de Hayr went to Germany to discuss some important topics and visit some project sites. In 2012, Beate Krettinger took part in the National Landcare conference in Sydney and gave a presentation about Landcare in Germany. During her stay she was able to meet and discuss with some Australian Landcare groups.

Photo above left: Beate Krettinger, Coordinator of Landcare in Germany.

Photo left: children studying insects in the Black Forest.

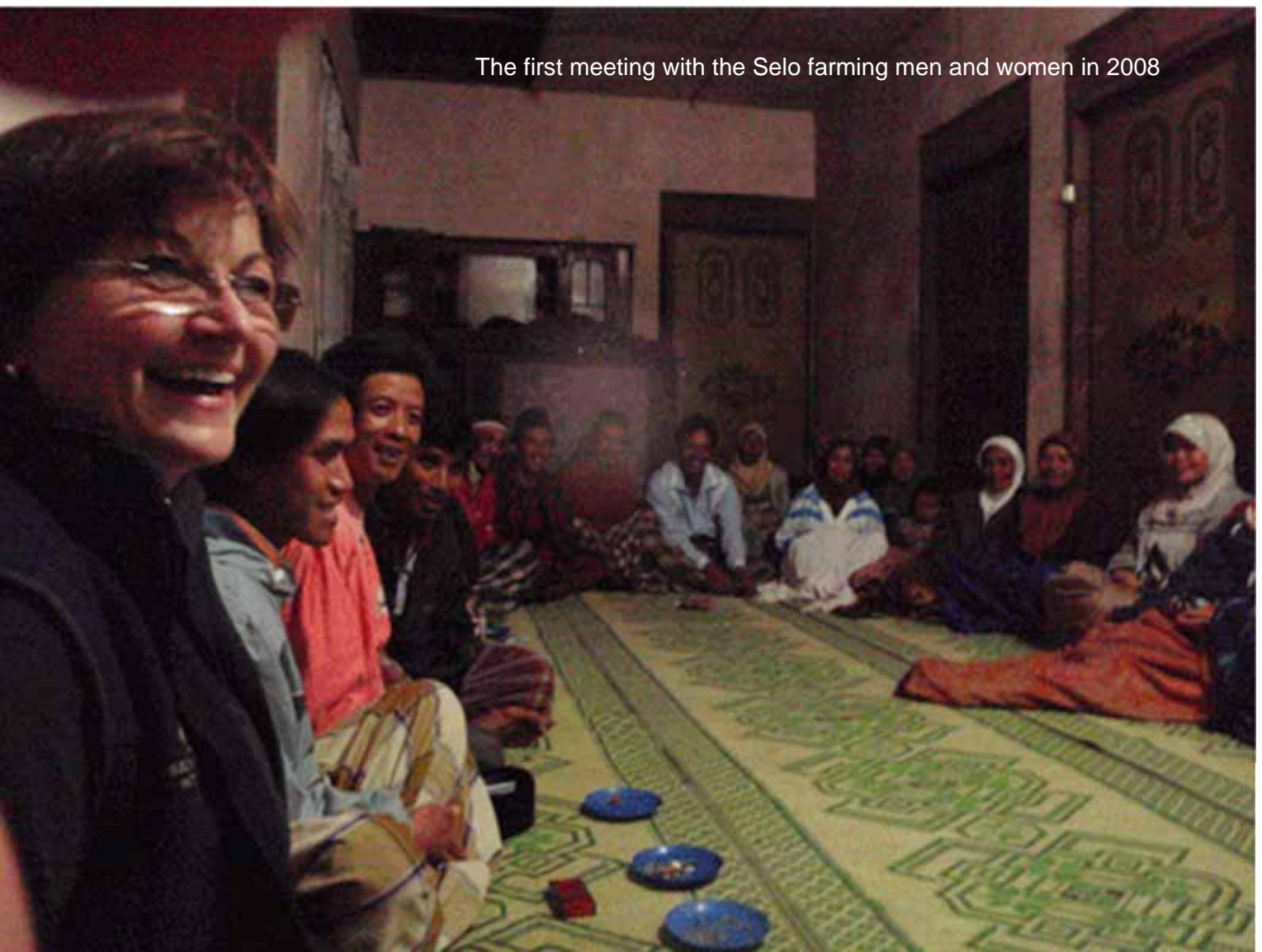


Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program



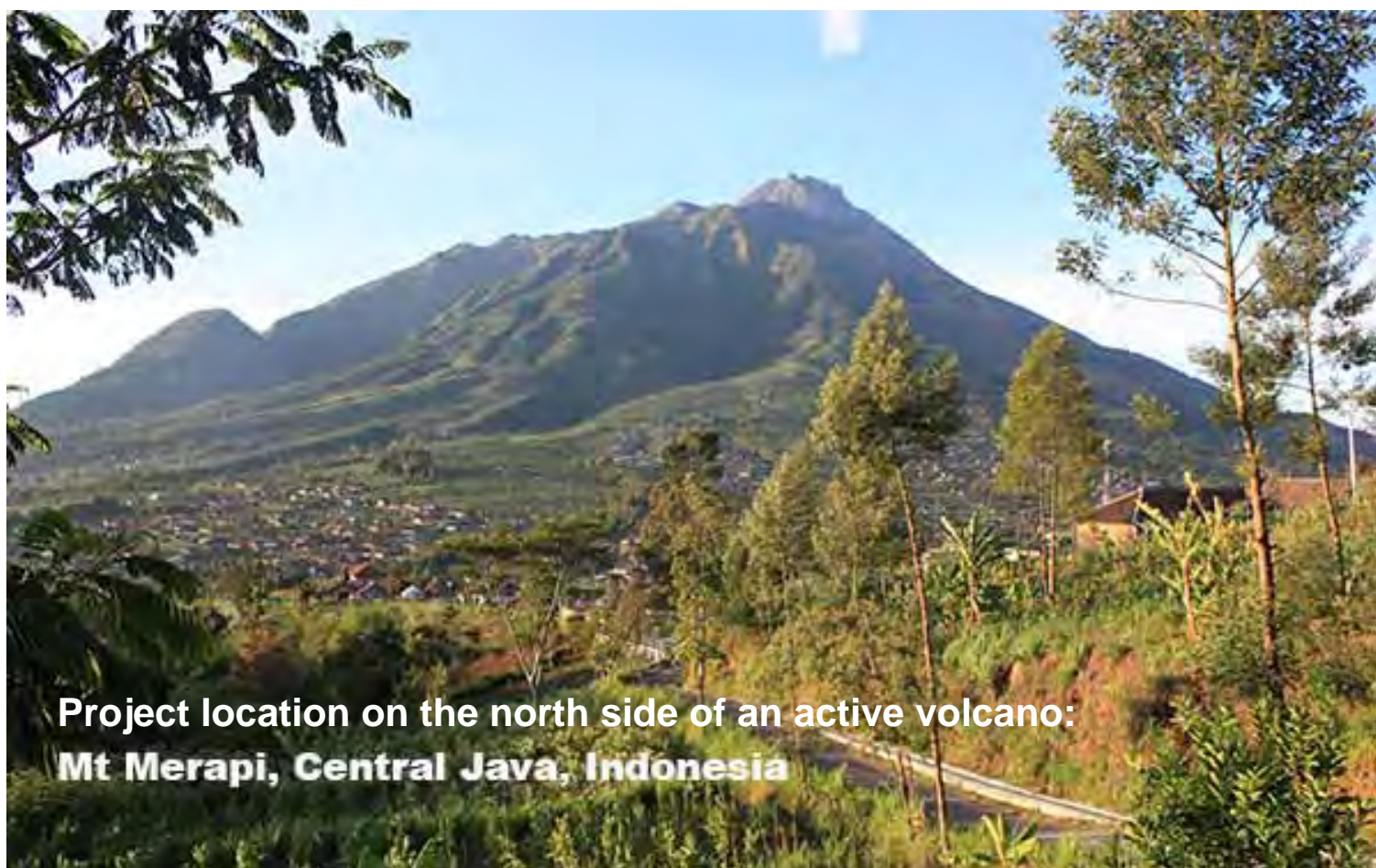
First visit in 2008

The Merapi Landcare program - *Peduli Lahan Merapi* - commenced at Selo in Central Java in 2009. Since then the Indonesians have made significant progress with the formation of four Selo Landcare Groups. By 2013 the volunteers began attracting growing community and government interest from neighbouring provinces. Initiatives included: a major project to install household scale biogas for energy plants using microfinance and then using bioslurry waste processing and marketing; tree and plant nurseries; new horticulture crops including coffee, conservation plantings for erosion and landslip control, a women's enterprise group value adding to farm products; cheese production from the dairy sector; agroforestry planting; and fertiliser trials.



The first meeting with the Selo farming men and women in 2008

Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program



Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program



Photos above and left: Since 2009, over 40,000 native tree and exotic fruit tree seedlings have been planted.

These include coffee plants around the outside of farmer plots and native plantings in the watershed on public and private land as joint community projects run by volunteers.

Photo below: Suyut, the coordinator of the conservation nursery at the Merbabu National Park— these trees will be replanted into the national park and buffer zone by volunteers.
Photo: 2016.



Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program

Photos below: firewood harvesting and grass harvesting for livestock which take many hours each day up and down steep slopes. Biogas has helped to save precious time, money and native forest trees.



Photos above and left:

Biogas is a major project for Merapi Landcare. A household with two cows can construct a small biogas unit which can save on energy costs and be repaid in about 15 months. The Biogas can provide energy for cooking and lighting for a normal household. Household biogas units are funded under a community micro-credit scheme, and nearly all biogas plants are constructed with volunteer labour under this community project.

The waste is being trialled as fertiliser and an ongoing project is working on processing, packaging and marketing bio-slurry as an additional income stream for farmers.



Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program

Volunteers and skilled local facilitators are an essential part of the Landcare program.

Photo below—volunteers constructing a biogas plant for a householder. The materials are paid for using a locally organised micro-credit scheme. Biogas plants usually pay for themselves in 15-17 months.



Photo below: Three of the Merapi Landcare facilitators – Sartono, Sutar and Suwardi.



Indonesian Landcare—the Merapi Landcare program

Cheese factory using local dairy cows.



Photo left:
Junior Landcare.

Photo top right:
Thanks to Victorian Neerim Landcare for a donation to the tree nurseries.

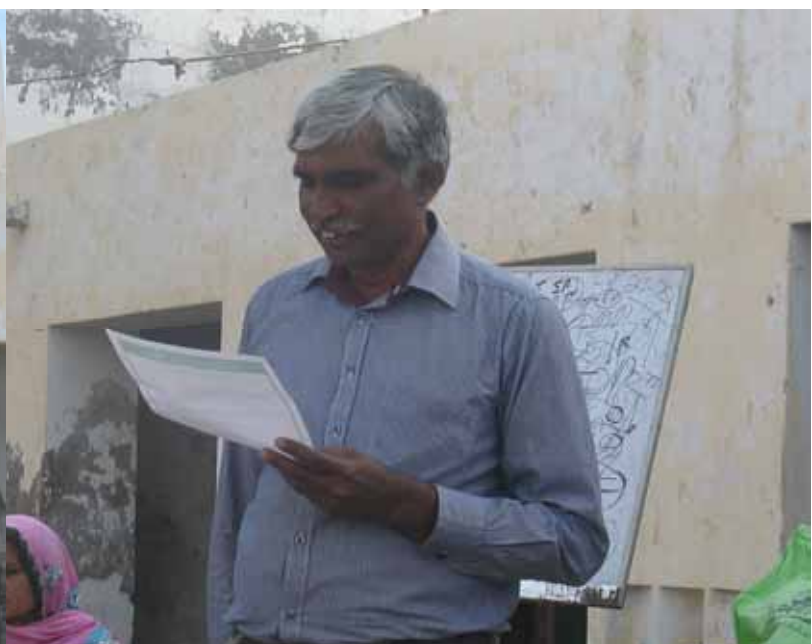


Photo right:
women's' group harvesting new crops.

Women in Global Business Conference Indonesia, Jakarta 2015 from left: Ujung Pramudiyanto (Merapi Landcare Facilitator) Victoria Mack (SILC), Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Paul Grigson, and Malachy Tarpey (Australian Landcare International).



Pakistan Landcare



SILC provided financial support to help the Pakistan Landcare program establish.

Credit must be extended to Mubarak Yaqub (above) and his group of volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Pakistan Landcare was officially launched in 2013. Photo above left and left: the Landcare launch, and photo below of a farmer meeting.



The Landcare Foundation of the Philippines

The Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (LFPI) is a non-profit and non-government organisation (NGO), based in the Mindanao and Visayas regions of the southern Philippines. It was established by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), now known as the World Agroforestry Centre, in September 2003, as a mechanism to help develop the landcare movement in its pioneer sites in the provinces of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon in northern Mindanao.

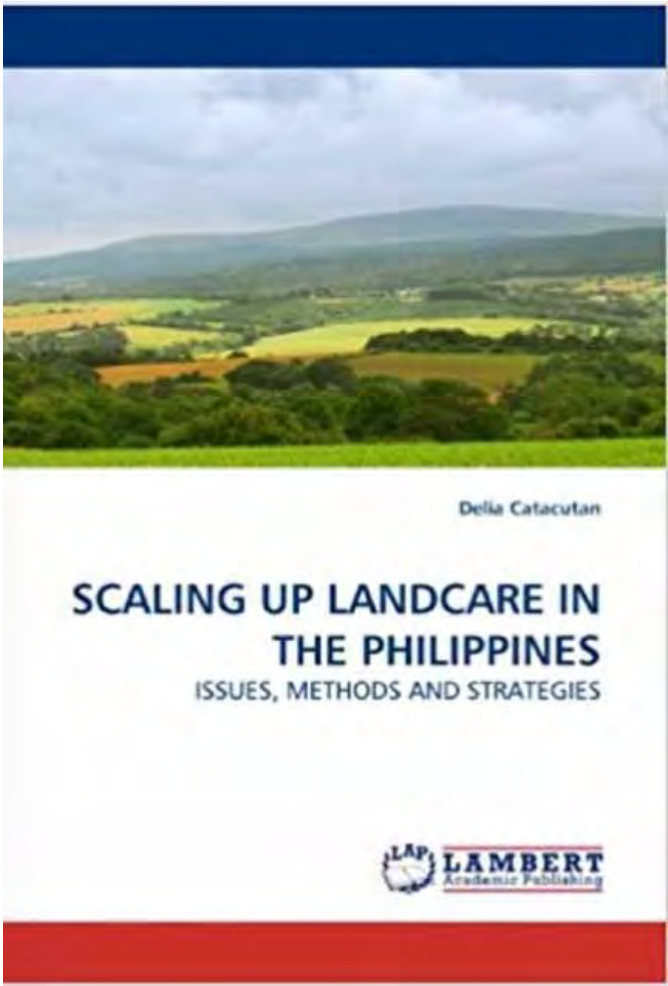
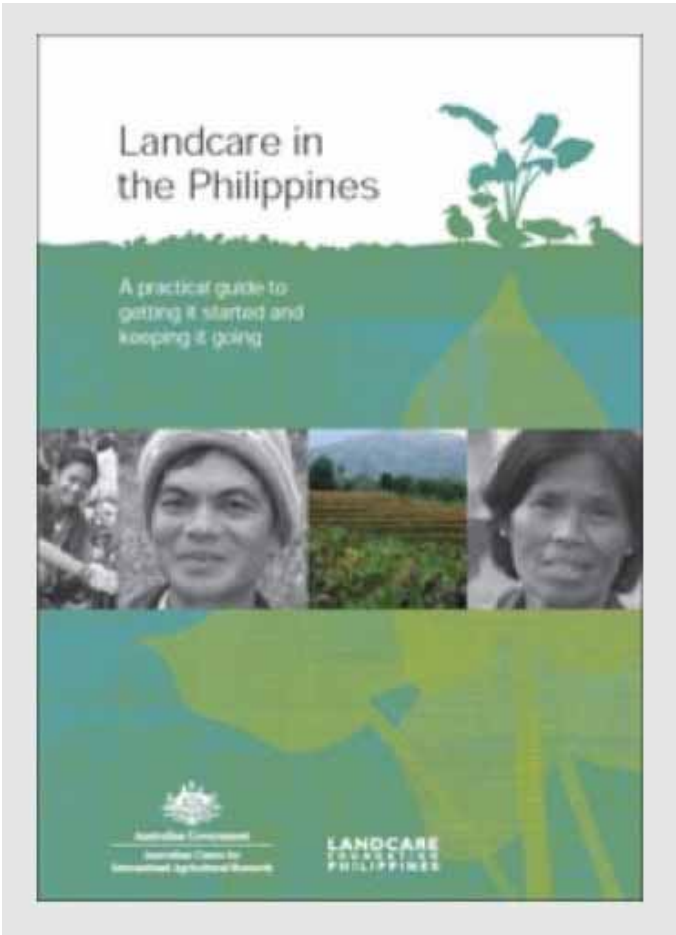
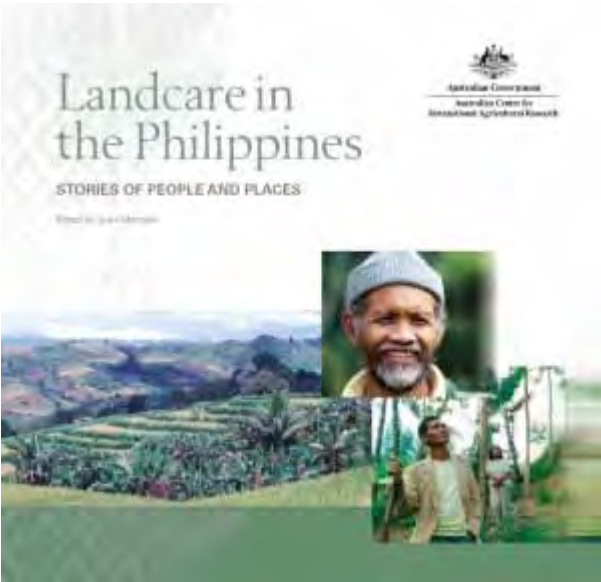
Landcare is a farmer-centred and farmer-led, group-based approach to agricultural extension, aimed at improving rural livelihoods on a sustainable basis. Landcare in the Philippines is an alternative model for extension adaptable for local government units, national government agencies and other key development players. It is a people-centred approach for extension that brings all key stakeholders in the community together to learn and jointly address a broad range of livelihood and natural resource management issues. The issues may be degradation of resources on the farm, low farm productivity, poor marketing systems or even bigger issues that affect the wider community.

Landcare holds great promise for the nation as an effective means of addressing these issues.

Photo below left: Mary Johnson on her first Philippines tour; **below right:** seedling production; and **bottom:** showing the use of native vegetation strips for erosion control.



Philippines Landcare: publications



Indonesian to the Philippines Landcare Study Tour 2014



The Philippines has been operating a successful Landcare program since 1996, for much of that time supported by research and development activities of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in conjunction with Australian and Philippines partners.

Five Indonesians were nominated by the Board of Sahabat Lahan Indonesia (SLI, Landcare Indonesia) to participate in a Philippines Study tour over 10 days in August 2014 to learn about Landcare in the Philippines.

It was an exciting opportunity, and for two delegates it was their first time overseas. The team comprised Suwardi, Sutar and Siti—all farmers and community leaders, in Selo Uyung Landcare Facilitator and Project officer for SLI, and Silvi Nur Oktalina, a Forestry Lecturer from the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta.

Victoria Mack, Director of the Secretariat for International Landcare, was the tour leader and coordinator of the study tour in partnership with Australian Landcare International.

It was considered that the Indonesians, at this stage in their development of Landcare, would benefit significantly from practical study of the Philippines experience ranging from supporting and expanding on-ground project work and scaling up Landcare activities, to strengthening institutional partnerships with government, the corporate sector and research organisations.

The Indonesian project leaders, farmer facilitators and their communities share: steep and unstable topography; low income subsistence agriculture; unsustainable farming practices; distance from markets and services; and volunteers committed to changing practices.



Photo above: Indonesian delegates and their hosts.

Photo below from left: Sutar, Suwardi, Silvi Nur Oktalina, Siti, Uyung from Indonesia and Frandel Dogoc and Evy Carusos from the Philippines.



Landcare Lanka—Sri Lankan Landcare



Photo above: one of several launches of Landcare Lanka in 2010; **bottom left** Kamy Melvani, **below** project sites and field visits in 2010.



Landcare Lanka—Sri Lankan Landcare



Photo above: Delegates attending Landcare Lanka launch in 2010 from left : Willie Baber, Pal Singh, Sue Marriott, Victoria Mack, Feisal Mansoor, Jerry Moles, Yvonne Everett, Matt Stephenson, Parveen Dassenaik and Robert Smith.

Photo below: Landcare Lanka study tour in 2011 from left back: Victoria Mack, Kamy Melvani, four Bangladesh delegates, Peter Duncan, Sue Marriott, front: Jerry Moles, Tanveer Hossain, Charlotte Haines, and one Bangladesh delegate.



Forest gardens in Sri Lanka—2005-2010



Photo left: a newly established forest garden and **right** over the fence the existing conditions.



Photo left: a newly established forest garden and **right** over the fence the existing conditions.



Photo above left and right - newly established forest gardens that provide food for home owners and also surplus to sell at the market.

Photo left: over the fence at the neighbour's house.

All these gardens were developed through the work of Kamy Melvani and with willing landowners and facilitators.



Grayson Landcare—United States of America



Jerry Moles:

"LandCare is a democratic approach to community development with three goals:

(1) increase the incomes of the citizens, (2) improve community services and amenities, and (3) protect the resources upon which our lives depend.

There is also an ethic of civility that requires that we be open and honest in our dealings with each other, willing to listen to other points of view, and, when in doubt, seek expert counsel to guide our decisions.

The magic of LandCare is no magic at all. What has made the difference is that when people sit down with enough time to fully weigh their alternatives, community solutions can be found that benefit everyone".

Photo above: Sue Marriott with Jerry Moles in Grayson County.

Photo below: LandCare discussion group at Grayson.



Landcare International (LI)

Landcare International (LI) was established in 2004 as a professional association of individuals and institutions committed to the principles, philosophy and practices of Landcare, to champion and raise the visibility of the Landcare movement at the global level, and the need to further spread adoption of the Landcare approach.

Administrative work for LI was performed by a virtual Landcare International Facilitation Unit (LIFU), hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya.

LI aimed to enhance worldwide recognition and adoption of the Landcare approach as a viable model for conserving the environment and natural resources, effective public–private partnerships, and authentic stakeholder participation in community action and decision making LI supports research, training, and the collection, dissemination and adoption of knowledge relevant to Landcare, international coordination of peer-to-peer learning, and sponsorship of educational exchange activities among Landcare participants. Specifically, LI aims to:

- *Build* a supportive global network that draws together Landcare participants to learn from each other through information exchange, people exchanges, peer-to-peer learning, regular conferences and training workshops, thereby encouraging national Landcare initiatives.
- *Facilitate* access to and extension of research and development, and relevant science and technology innovations.
- *Establish* and *maintain* a lessons-learned database of Landcare successes.
- *Broker* and *mobilize* financial resources to facilitate strategic investments in Landcare.
- *Promote* guiding values associated with the Landcare philosophy.
- *Facilitate* multi-level and multi-sectoral relationships within national Landcare projects and activities.

Photo below from left : Dennis Garrity, Mary Johnson, John Robinson, Rob Youl, Horrie Poussard and Victoria Mack at an ALI meeting in Melbourne.



Australian Landcare International (ALI)

Australian Landcare International (ALI) was a non-profit organisation that aims to facilitate and support overseas communities to adopt a Landcare approach to manage and sustain their land, water and biodiversity.

It began in 2008 and many of its members have been involved in Landcare in Australia at policy, program and operational levels for more than 20 years. Some have international experience in agriculture, forestry and environmental management.

From the ALI website:

Our goal is to use our collective Landcare experience to help people in other countries manage their land and water resources more sustainably by:

- *Promoting Landcare to national and international organisations as a sustainable way to manage natural resources for food production and resource conservation.*
- *Supporting a Landcare approach within local communities in various countries.*
- *Training overseas participants in Landcare within Australia and in home countries.*
- *Making connections between people and projects in Australia and overseas.*

Australian Landcare International can draw upon a wide range of expertise through specific database of members and its wider network. It has good relationships with various organisations, both corporate and government sectors to develop new projects

Our 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. Bank Australia has generously provided funds to cover the cost of fund transfers to overseas countries. Landcare Victoria Inc. is a co-founder of the OLF program. Donations are tax deductible.

Since our Overseas Landcare Fund was formed nearly 4 years ago in 2013, we have raised over \$22 000 for 35 projects in 14 countries.

Photo below: Sharing Landcare knowledge— Indonesia and Philippines study tour with Henry Binahon at his farm at Lantapan, Bukidnon in the Philippines in 2014.



Rediscovering the Country—Sri Lanka 2013—making the film



Photo above: Stephen Oaks filming in Sri Lanka.

Photo below: At the Ahinsa Tea Estate—Stephen Oakes, Pia (Principal of the Tea Estate), Ian Penna, Victoria Mack, Sue Marriott and Jerry Moles (Grayson Landcare USA).



Rediscovering the Country—Sri Lanka 2013—making the film

The film aimed to strengthen community support for the improved management of rural lands by increasing awareness within rural and urban communities of how revegetation and integration of biologically rich and commercially valuable plantings into farming operations can help tackle land management problems and contribute to rural communities.

The 33 minute film journeys from southern Australia to Sri Lanka. In southern Australia, the film looks at several major community-led revegetation projects. In Sri Lanka, it shows how community activism has on a large scale modified traditional village gardens to mimic the original native forest structure, in the process restoring biodiversity and wildlife habitat, as well as producing food, natural resources and an economic income for local people. In all these projects, connecting people across landscapes and restoring the original forest structure act as the cornerstones for achieving landscape restoration success.

This is why the film is called **Rediscovering the Country**. Ballarat Region Treegrowers has long sought to encourage a culture of custodianship and repair towards Australia's land. We believe bringing back the original forest structure can achieve a wide range of benefits from repairing the land and creating wildlife habitat to providing an income for landowners, such as through wood or agricultural production.



Photo above: Film-maker Stephen Oakes
Below left: producer Ian Penna.

Rediscovering the Country

a film journey into landscape restoration



"I don't think that there is enough money in the world to fix the environmental challenges that we face unless the people who live in the spaces on the planet are mobilised and engaged. We cannot do it without their help because they live in each catchment, in each river valley, on each plateau and in each desert."

Victoria Mack
Secretariat for International Landscape

Once, our lands held a biodiverse abundance.

This 30-minute film takes the viewer on a journey through south-east Australia and Sri Lanka in search of projects repairing damaged landscapes, restoring biodiversity and improving livelihoods.

Along the way, the viewer encounters partnerships that put collaboration between landowners and others at the centre of environmental success.

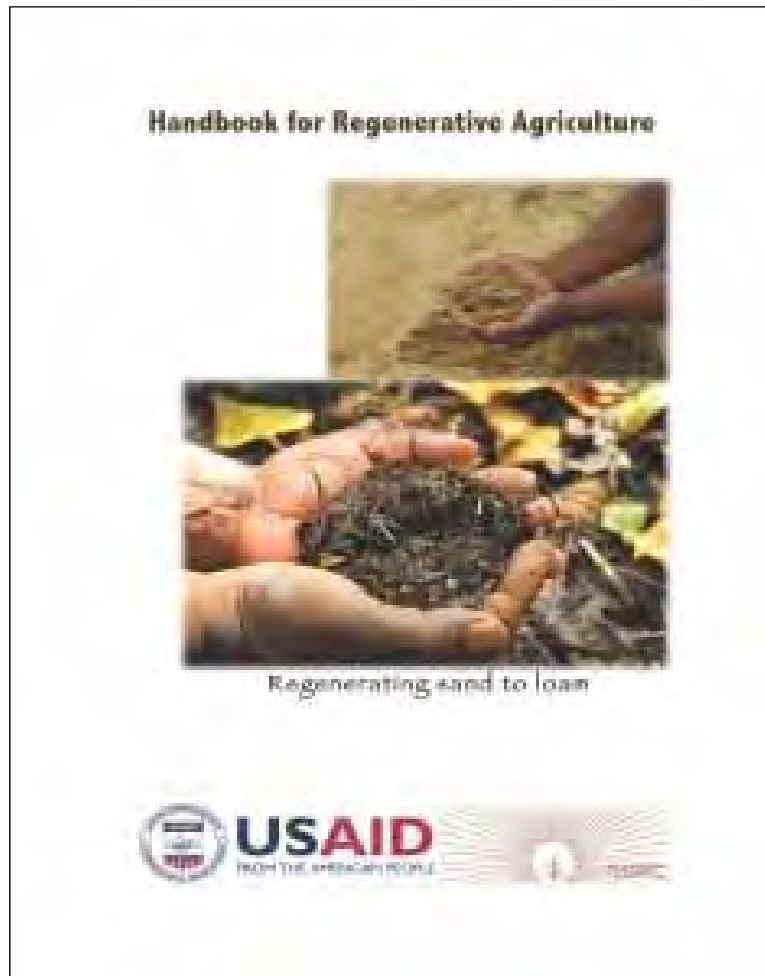
Release: June 2014.
Contact: Australian Forest Growers
national.office@afg.asn.au

The Rediscovering the Country website www.rediscoveringthecountry.org provides updates on the film, including interviews, weblinks and information related to landscape restoration. The film will be available for free download from this site.

Produced by Australian Forest Growers and Sheoaks Films.

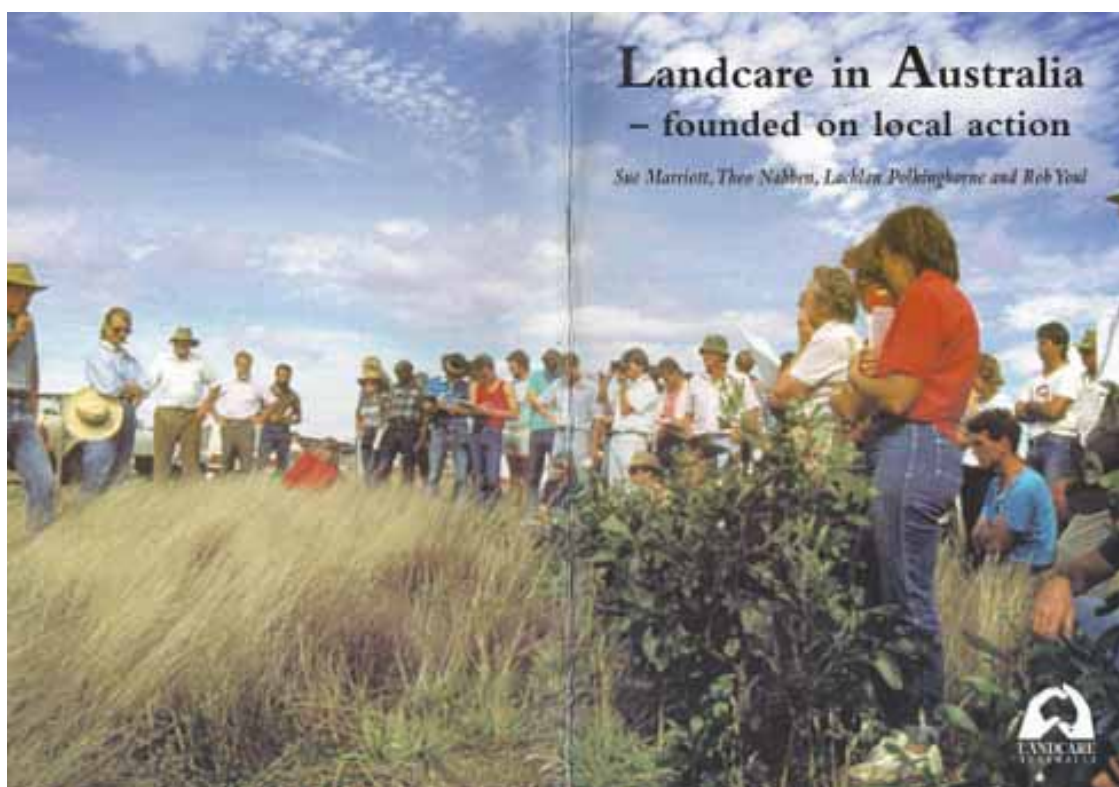


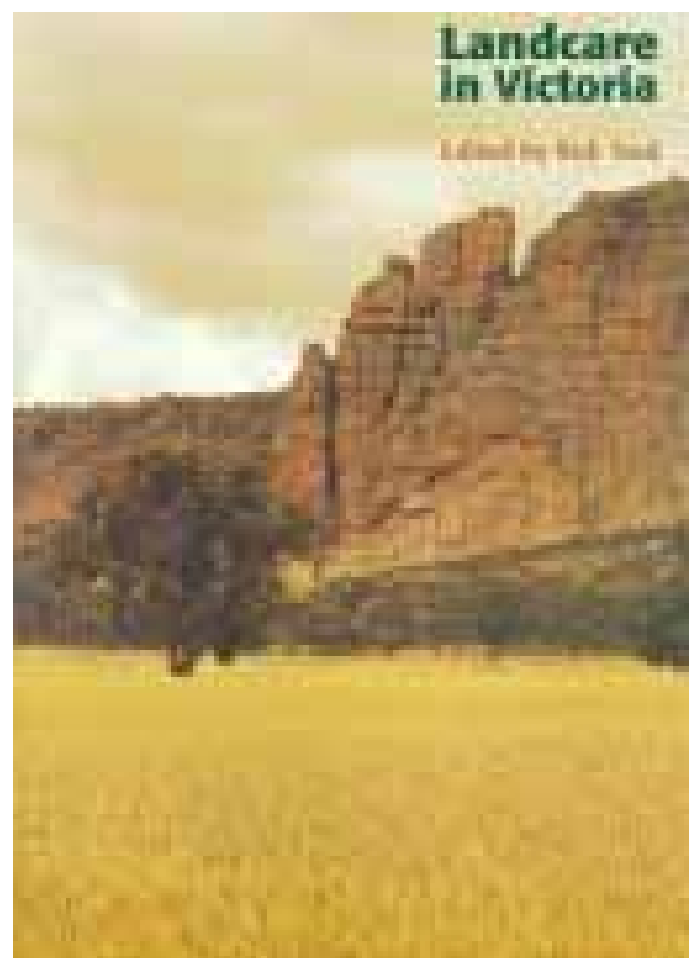
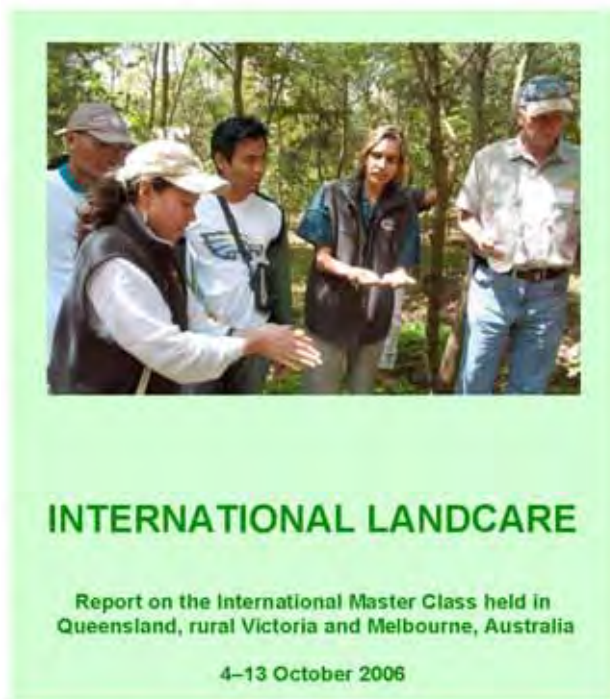
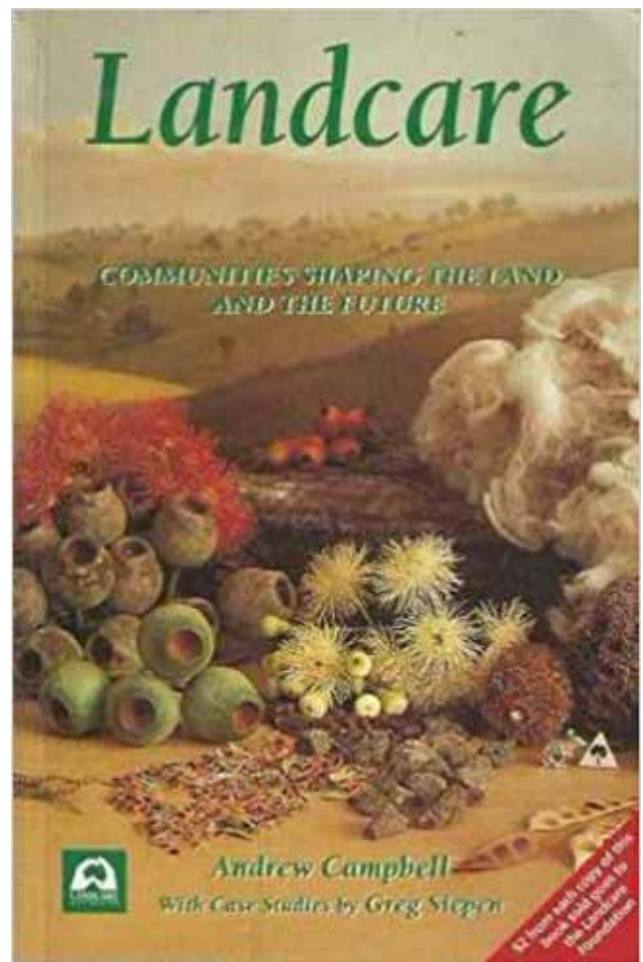
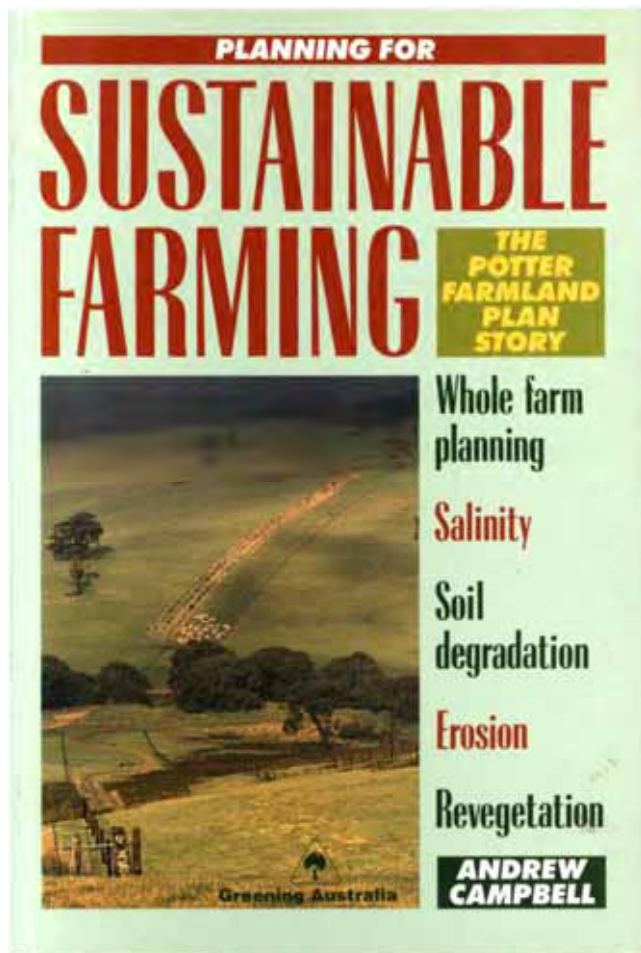
Publications



Above: Handbook for Regenerative Agriculture by Kamy Melvani

<http://www.silc.com.au/2012/09/19/handbook-for-regenerative-agriculture-by-kamal-melvani/>





2006—SILC visit to Uganda and Kapchorwa



Photo above and below: SILC's visit to Uganda in 2006. A memorable visit and wonderful hospitality—thank you!



THE HAMILTON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND LEARNING PROJECT



Supported by Greening Australia



THE H.E.A.L. EXPERIENCE:

Explores unusual, educational and environmentally interesting locations in Victoria's Western District;
Plans tours to suit the specific interests of the visitor, whether traveller, commercial farmer, scientist or student;

Organises visits to selected farms (including the Potter Farms) where farmers are working to solve some of Australia's greatest environmental challenges: erosion, salt affected soils, widespread decline of trees and the loss of associated eco-systems;

In workplace settings, brings local experts and visitors together to look at ways in which farmers can work in harmony with the land to achieve both increased productivity and sustainability for the future;

Arranges visits to the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning, home of the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*), where its habitat incorporates a significant area of original Western District Grasslands;

Recognises and explores the history of the region, including its Aboriginal heritage and the development of the great pastoral industry of the Western District, from its beginnings in the 1830's to the present day.

ORGANISATION

H.E.A.L. is able to organise entire tours, including meals, transport and homestead or motel accommodation, or give assistance with various components of visits as required.

COST

The cost of tours depends upon the number of visitors (which can be from one person to groups of up to fifty). Some subsidies are available for educational groups.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS

H.E.A.L. tours are co-ordinated by farmer and environmentalist Mrs. Sue Marriott, "Clifton Hill", Braxholme, Victoria, 3302, Australia. Telephone (within Australia) (055) 786 223 (from overseas) 011 61 55 786 223.

The H.E.A.L. Experience is in that part of Victoria traversed by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836 and which he named 'Australia Felix' — happy Australia. Mitchell's report to the Governor described the land as

"... ready for the plough in many parts, as if specially prepared by the Creator for the industrious bands of Englishmen."

Over 150 years later, H.E.A.L. welcomes the visitor with an enquiring mind who wishes to see what has become of Mitchell's "Australia Felix".

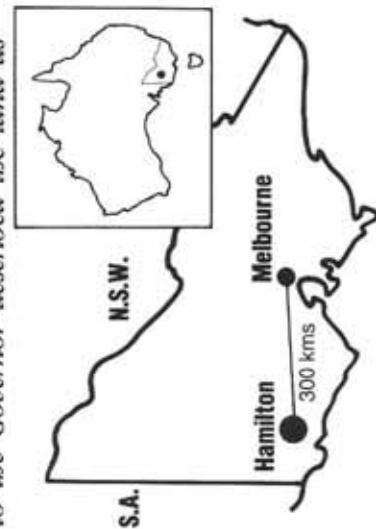


Photo: Dale Mann/Retrospect
Painting: Muntum Station, by Thomas Clark (1814-1883)
Reproduced by kind permission of the City of Hamilton Art Gallery

Original HEAL brochure depicting all that HEAL represented in 'western

