



# Bulletin

## International Association for Landscape Ecology

**Darwin - SPECIAL**

IALE 2003

Crossing Frontiers –

Landscape Ecology Down Under

Building Bridges Between Cultures, Disciplines and Approaches



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### REPORT OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT

by R. Hobbs<sup>1</sup>

As outgoing President and Chair of the Organising Committee, it is my pleasure to provide a brief report on the Congress in Darwin in July. 467 delegates attended the congress, and in total 35 countries were represented, as follows:

Australia (174), Austria (4), Belgium (4), Brazil (3), Canada (10), China (5), Colombia (2), Czech Republic (5), Denmark (4), Estonia (10), Finland (5), France (5), Germany (21), Hungary (3), Israel (4), Italy (10), Japan (24), Korea (5), Mexico (1), Namibia (1), New Zealand (6), Norway (1), Poland (4), Portugal (6), Russia (1), Slovenia (1), South Africa (3), Spain (4), Sweden (10), Switzerland (8), Taiwan (1), Thailand (1), The Netherlands (29), United Kingdom (20), USA (71).

Taking into consideration world events such as the declaration of war in Iraq, terrorism attacks, the downfall in the world economy and the outbreak of SARS leading up to the congress, the number of attendees from 35 different countries is certainly something to be pleased about.

The theme of the congress was “Crossing Frontiers- Landscape Ecology Down Under: Building Bridges Between Cultures, Disciplines & Approaches”. Twenty Symposia and 250 oral presenters made up the program with up to eight concurrent sessions occurring at the one time. Keynote presenters were: Dr. David Bowman, Drs. Bärbel and Gunther Tress and Dr. Gary Fry, Prof. Paul Opdam and Dr. Kevin McGarigal. All three plenary lectures provided stimulating starts to the day’s proceedings. Posters matching the symposia themes were also on display throughout the congress venues. Approximately 120 posters were displayed.

The Welcome Reception was held on the Sunday night at Parliament House and was hosted by the Minister for Lands & Planning, The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA. The delegates were welcomed by myself, Larrakia Nation representative Alison Mills as well as the Minister. Delegates were then entertained by an Aboriginal dance troupe. Delegates were bused to Monday night’s Happy Hour Drinks event at the George Brown Botanical Gardens. The setting along with yet another spectacular sunset make for an outstanding venue. No formalities or speeches were made on the evening. Impromptu entertainment was supplied by Larrakia Nation representative Alison Mills.

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The congress dinner was held under the stars on The Esplanade. The evening was a huge success with many positive comments made by delegates, both on the night and after the congress. The evening started at 6.30pm with pre dinner drinks. Guests then sat down at tables of their choice for the evening. The entertainment for the night, The Sublimes, initially surprised delegates with their enthusiasm and frivolity, but as the evening wore on delegates got into the swing of things, and by the end of the night most people had hit the dance floor. Speeches included the presentation of IALE awards, handing over of the presidency, summer school awards and a sponsor's talk. This ended with a cake and "Happy Birthday" for IALE's 21st birthday.

A "Top End" BBQ was held at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club on the Wednesday night, and on Thursday 17th July a series of field trips were offered, including a mix of scientific trips and commercial tours.

All in all, I think the congress was a big success and enjoyed by everyone who traveled to Darwin to take part. The congress was preceded by a Summer School at Northern Territory University, organized by Roy Haines-Young and Marion Potschin. This too was a great success, with the participants enjoying a week of discussions and making many new friends. It was my pleasure to chair the organizing committee and oversee the scientific program. However, the success of the Congress has its source in the excellent organization of the local committee, headed by Diane Pearson, and the conference organizers, headed by Gaye Messer. The conference ran well, all the audio-visuals ran smoothly, and the social events were all excellent. Darwin has presented a challenge to the organizers of the next congress!

At the congress dinner, I handed over the Presidency to Bob Bunce. Unfortunately, Bob could not make it to the congress, and so I handed the ceremonial gavel to Rob Jongman to pass on. I wish Bob and the new Executive every success for the coming years, and hope that IALE will continue to flourish and develop as an organization.

## IALE AWARDS

### IALE Distinguished Scholarship Award 2003:

**Monica Turner**, Madison for her immense contribution to developing landscape ecology as a quantitative science. She has incorporated in it a healthy blend of evidence based on both model results and empirical evidence.

**Marc Antrop**, Ghent in recognition of his important contribution to the theory and practice of holistic landscape ecology and his devoted service to IALE and the journal "Landscape Ecology". As an outstanding scholar, researcher and educator, and as a leading European geographer and landscape ecologist he has opened new vistas for a better comprehension of the dynamics of urban landscapes and has provided innovative tools for their study and management.

**Ulo Mander**, Tartu for establishing landscape ecological research in the Baltic countries, providing both scientific advancement, and enthusiastic support for young researchers. His work has combined good science with practical application.

### IALE Distinguished Service Award 2003:

**Karl-Friedrich Schreiber**, Emeritus Professor of "Landschaftsökologie" at the University in Münster, Ger-



Some awardees and keynote speakers at the Darwin conference: Left to Right Gunther Tress, Paul Opdam, Virginia Dale, John Wiens, Monica Turner, Mark Antrop, Bärbel Tress and Richard Hobbs.

many. One of the first professors in Landscape Ecology in the world. He was one of the founding fathers of IALE and a leading applied landscape ecologist in Germany. He organized, among other things, an international IALE symposium in Münster, and has numerous important publications in the application of land(scape) ecology.

**W.B. (Bert) Harms**, Wageningen. He is at present a senior researcher in "Alterra" in the Netherlands. He was and is very active in The Netherlands and abroad in land planning, now using GIS scenario methodology. He was vice secretary of the first committee and active in the organization of the Veldhoven symposium, where "everything started". As committee member he also initiated the IALE Bulletin and edited it for quite a number of years. So he may be also considered as one of the founding fathers of IALE. He continues to be very active.

**John Wiens** is a leading researcher in Landscape Ecology and past president of IALE. He was instrumental in leading the association into a new era. John has been doing synthetic evaluations of progress in our research for some years. He has been a goal-setter for landscape ecology internationally, and currently edits the IALE/CUP Landscape Ecology series.

## WHAT I DID ON MY IALE SUMMER SCHOOL NON-HOLIDAY

by S. Rohde<sup>1</sup> & K. Ferdinands<sup>2</sup>

*Monday, 7th July:*

The long anticipated IALE summer school starts! 19 students from 9 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Portugal & Switzerland) meet at the NTU to learn about "Landscapes and Sustainability" and to explore the field of Landscape Ecology (LE).

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IALE 2003 Summer School was attended by: Andrew Bolam, Hermann Klug, Imelda Somadi, Isabel Loupa Ramos, Jai Ung Choi, Janne McNeill, Jolieske Lips, Juliana McCoster, Kathleen Broderik, Keith Ferdinands, Kristy Olivia Winn, Leo Cabrera García, Melanie Bradley, Rosario Oliveira, Renee Bartolo, Sigrun Rohde, Susana Ochoa-Gaona, Tobias Langanke, Veerle Van Eetvelde.

The first task is to find a space for our poster. For some of the foreigners this is challenging as Marion asks us to use only yellow "blu tack". Finally all posters find a place and the leaders **Marion Potschin** and **Roy Haines-Young** start "officially" with delivering heaps of reading material (so much, that it didn't fit in the folder provided) and presenting the time schedule for the week. Some might have thought of their colleagues telling them „oh, you are going for holiday to Australia?!“ This was definitely not looking like holiday...and there was no danger of getting bored either. Even the lunch "break" had a program: tutorial. The tutorials were a great opportunity to discuss our own projects with the experts. A very valuable thing to do!

The leaders were very organized! They even thought of a sleeping area behind the poster screens for jet lagged students (poor Australians - they don't have an excuse for a little nap...). But to say it right now: the on-goings of the summer school kept us awake- so none of the students went for a nap.

OOPS!- who is this guy in the back corner - hiding behind his laptop? An observer? A guard? No - it's Richard Aspinall, the voice from the "off". Thanks for many helpful comments and explanations, Richard!

A little break allows us to get our brain together for the poster presentation. Every student has 3 min to let the others know where (s)he is from and give a quick insight into her/his research. The range of topics is amazing! Whatever you might think of - we covered it!

We finish the day with a little welcome party where the most interesting questions seems to be "how long was your journey?"

*Tuesday, 8th July*

We start the day full of enthusiasm! (well, some needed a cup of coffee before...). Marion gives us an overview on the nature of LE and the outcomes of *Rio+10*. This is the beginning of our discussion "What is the fundamental purpose of landscape ecology?" - the question which accompanies us through the whole week and may have caught you, too (see poster).

As time runs there is a lot more material to cover and Roy asks us to read it during lunch break. We wonder if this was to be



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serious or if it is the outbreak of British humour? Remember, the lunch “break” is synonymous to “tutorial”, so no time left between gulping down a sandwich and having the discussion with the experts.

In the afternoon Roy is our guide for the exploration of *pattern & processes*. The “take home message” seems to be that describing landscape pattern is not the end but the start of the story. Our stories shall explain and help to understand the process behind them, whilst considering dynamics and cultural aspects, too.

After (partly) recharging our batteries (is there more food?!) with delicious Asian food Rod Applegate gives us an introduction to the *landscapes of Australia*. This helps us to understand our setting as about half of the summer school participants are “freshies” (as in students, not crocs) concerning the Australian continent. We now have an understanding for the visual landscape, but some of us still struggling with the audio-landscape (the fast, nasal Australian accent...) – adding a “speak slowly” to their name tags.

That was our second day – full of new ideas and inspiring discussions!

#### Wednesday, 9th July

The morning session introduced us to the concepts of Interdisciplinary & transdisciplinary approaches to landscape research (Gary Fry). A subject close to the heart of all landscape ecology PhD students - even if the semantics of the terms were less clear in our heads. This session, was memorable for a number of reasons, some positive, some less so. For example, the stats that 50% of interdisciplinary PhD's fail to complete; and who could forget the heading – *Post graduate students - the losers* – just because half of us don't finish and we can't play the guitar as well as you Gary, is not justification for the losers tag! Actually, the heading referred to the conclusion drawn by Gary Fry that there are a number of barriers to research students effectively undertaking interdisciplinary research. “Take home message”: An interdisciplinary approach will make your PhD harder to complete; but if you do, the benefits are worth it (for the 50% that finish) in terms of publications and employment. Enlightened, as to how ambitious most of us were trying to be and only slightly demoralised we spent the afternoon getting “the low down” on the Landscapes of Northern Australia (Dick Williams & Peter Whitehead) that served as an introduction to Thursday's field trip. For the non-Australian contingent this was their first exposure to speed, accent, vernacular and tropical dress code of local lecturers. Take home message: Don't shave, wear loud shirts, and make sure you incorporate fire and indigenous knowledge in studies of the northern Australian landscapes.

Juxtaposed against this introduction to landscape ecology in the tropics was the evening lecture Cultural Landscapes (Margaretha Ihse & Helle Skanes). Risking geographic whiplash we headed rapidly north to the Nordic cultural landscapes of Sweden and the role that stereoscopes and aerial photography, combined with GIS have as spatial analysis tools. Memorable for the only



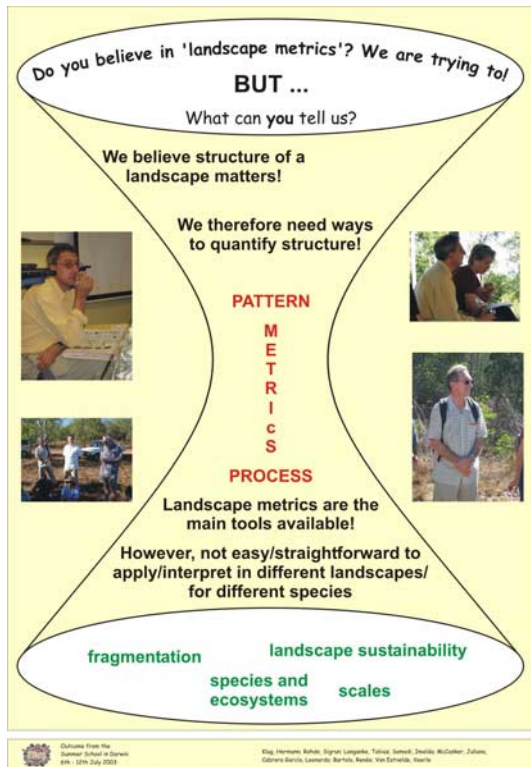
hands-on prac session, where we explored the joys of the stereoscopes. Take home message: Swedes dress nothing like folk from the Northern Territory and speak english of a more understandable form, despite it being a second language; also that sustainable landscape management requires a temporal and cultural perspective of nature and tools which allow integration of these different drivers of landscape change.

#### Thursday, 10th July

Field excursion! A great day out in the Australian landscape with three different “Landscape stories”: The first was told by Lorraine Williams, a young aboriginal woman. She showed us her country near Darwin and explained what it meant to her and her family in the past as well as in the future. From Darwin to the Mary River, where our next landscape story was given by Terry Baldwin. An inspired and enthusiastic performance, complete with props and dramatic pauses, which show-cased his visions on how to save the world. Lastly, from the edge of the floodplain, Peter Whitehead explained the values of the wetlands and the difficulties faced trying to preserve them. Peter Whitehead had a hard job as crocodiles, wallabies and a kookaburra where also vying for attention. “Take home message of the day”: there are different stories and perspectives on a landscape - all equally important.

#### Friday, 11th July

Enthusiasm and energy levels recharged from the previous day's Field Trip and a night at Mindil Beach Night Markets, we entered the last seminar session - Scenarios for Landscape Sustainability (Richard Aspinall & Diane Pearson). A tough time slot for the two, as we had by this stage been exposed to 4 days (& nights) of landscape ecology – theory, practice and much discussion. The “take home message” for us was: GIS is a very useful and versatile platform for data management and spatial analysis, but, there are other equally valuable tools and techniques which may provide advice, solutions or templates, for seemingly intractable problems. In short, it's often important to think (&look) outside the spatially explicit box. At least that's what, with post-processing, we think the message was - it was all getting a bit blurry at this point in proceedings.



Next was preparing questions for the Round Table discussion with a panel of experts and deciding on what format would be employed to make the most of the experts. Inspired by Australian wines we generated a large number for questions, grouped them into issues and after some discussion settled on using an Open Space (thanks Kathleen) approach for most of the round table discussion. This proved to be very entertaining on Friday night (the wine) and very effective on Saturday (the participants).

*The posters*

One of the tasks given to us during the Summer School was the production of 2 posters (as if we didn't have enough to do!). These were displayed at the IALE conference and some may have seen them or have been harassed by various students soliciting your opinions on *What is the fundamental purpose of LE?* The data collected is being collated and analysed and we will publish this in the bulletin or elsewhere soon.

This question was prompted by repeated discussion during the Summer School about what a wide variety of disciplines, paradigms, fall under the umbrella of LE. We were keen to see whether this results in very polarised views about what LE is or a belief that it is this variety of approaches that is the essence of LE.

The other poster asked: *"Do you believe in landscape metrics?"*. Well, we are trying to – but there are many doubts, too. We believe that landscape structure matters and therefore needs to be quantified. So, what are your suggestions to deal with the limitations of landscape metrics and what additional methods to you think are useful to quantify structure and to explain processes?!

*Saturday, 12th July*

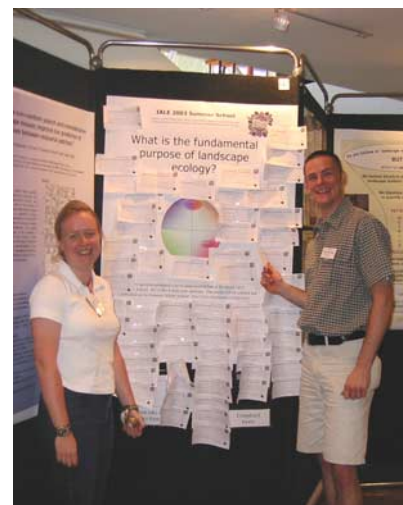
After a brief introduction to our panel of experts (Gary Fry, Bas Pedroli, Richard Aspinall, Roy Haines-Young, Richard Hobbs, Denis Saunders, Rob Jongman, Helle Skanes, Margareta Ihse, Marion Potschin) we ventured into an open-air 'Open Space' discussion forum outside. While some felt discussions got bogged down, most felt this was a very useful way to encourage interaction and ideas exchange between new and established landscape ecologists. The best bit, license to walk away from a discussion that you lost interest in, without either partly feeling guilty. A final bit of dissection about what came out of the Open Space discussions some frantic last minute work on getting the posters finished and it was time to bring the Summer School to a close. And what better way to finish and build bridges than with the oh so British Pimms cocktails consumed (quaffed) under the very tropical Rain Trees at the university amongst a gaggle of disparate accents.

*A final "take home message" from us for IALE*

The most common point that came up in student discussion after the Summer School was that it was inspirational. It was challenging, a great learning experience (content and mentoring), long and exhausting, and in spite of all that, fundamentally enjoyable. It was very effective as an academic training exercise but was also very rewarding socially. The contacts made were every bit as valuable as the large amount of information we struggled to digest. We hope that IALE will make the Summer School a regular event and provide the financial support necessary to ensure ongoing international participation in this valuable learning environment; an environment that also provides an opportunity for students to share their ideas and visions about landscape ecology with their peers.

*Thanks*

Our thanks to IALE & NTU for supporting the event, the Advisory Board, the lecturers (particularly Richard Aspinall) and special thanks to Marion Potschin and Roy Haines-Young - who did such an amazing job of organising, educating and entertaining us with their two person show.



## MEETINGS

June 7-9, 2004

**Multiple landscape, merging past and present in landscape planning**, Wageningen, the Netherlands

More information: Arnold van der Valk, Ilja de Boer, Land Use Planning Chair ([Ilja.deBoer@wur.nl](mailto:Ilja.deBoer@wur.nl)) or <http://www.wau.nl/rpv/isomul/workshop2004>

June 21-24, 2004

**IALE-UK meeting, Landscape Ecology of Trees and Forests**, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Habitat fragmentation and the potential impact of human-induced climate change are encouraging a move away from site-based protection to recognition of the importance of landscape-scale processes. Trees and forests play an important role in the wider countryside, providing a 'patchwork' of wildlife rich habitats as the focus for the development of an ecologically functional and sustainable landscape. This conference is aimed at conservation policy and decision makers, planners, land managers and researchers and will explore:

Key concepts in landscape ecology, e.g., landscape thresholds, functional connectivity and physical connectedness

Spatial conservation strategies, e.g., based on: forest habitat networks, focal species and generic species, functional attributes and surrogate measures, buffering to increase core area, linking to create 'wildlife corridors', and 'greenways'.

More information: <http://www.iale.org.uk/index.html>

March 30 - April 4, 2004

**The 19th Annual Symposium of the International Association of Landscape Ecology US Chapter: „Transdisciplinary Challenges in Landscape Ecology“**, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

From its onset, landscape ecology has been defined by a wide range of scientific disciplines, including those in the general categories of the physical sciences, and more recently, the social sciences. In addition to providing a venue for a diverse set of scientific disciplines, landscape ecology has emphasized the importance of spatial pattern and scale. Solving current and future environmental issues requires transdisciplinary approaches that integrate the physical, ecological, and social sciences in space and time. The theme of this meeting was selected to provide a forum to consider the challenges and potential of applying transdisciplinary approaches to solve current and future environmental issues. Activities for this meeting were selected to demonstrate and highlight research, methods, and tools that integrate multiple scientific disciplines needed to address today's environmental problems.

More information and registration: <http://www.usiale.org/lasvegas2004/>

September 15–21, 2004

**The 21st session of the Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape. One Region, Many Stories: Mediterranean Landscapes in a Changing Europe**, Myrina, Limnos and Molyvos, Lesvos, Greece

More information and registration: <http://www.aegean.gr/geography/PECSRL2004/>

September 13-17, 2004

**34th Annual conference of the Ecological Society, Eco-complexity and dynamics of the cultural landscape**, Giessen, Germany

More information and registration: <http://www.uni-giessen.de/gfoe2004/>

August 25-27, 2004

**Restoration on the edge, Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)**, Victoria, British Columbia

SER's 16th Annual International Conference will focus on restoration on the western edge of North America and the eastern edge of the Pacific Ocean, the edge between culture and nature, ecosystems on the edge of loss, and the edge of making restoration a normal part of landscape management.

More information: <http://www.ser.org/meeting/brochure.pdf>

March 29- April 2, 2005

**Landscape Ecology in the Mediterranean Inside and outside approaches**, Faro, Portugal

The 2005 European Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, to be held in Southern Portugal, will focus on Mediterranean landscapes. Mediterranean landscapes are changing rapidly under driving forces leading to different pathways of change. This situation calls for an adequate framework of approaches, methodologies and management practices. As an awareness of the specific patterns and processes taking place increases, landscape ecological research in the Mediterranean region has responded in recent years by various research projects. However, many challenging issues are still to be discussed, both in research and in management, in order to focus the research agenda. The organization of a Mediterranean oriented IALE Congress is a unique opportunity to bring new insights into the landscape ecology of this region, to debate and reflect on the specific challenges of these landscapes, and to identify future needs for research. It is intended that this Congress will attract researchers and policy makers in Mediterranean landscapes, but also all those who are interested in sharing other perspectives that may contribute to a definition of specific Mediterranean problems and their common features.

More information: <http://www.apep.pt/>