



The Lead Education and Abatement Design Group  
Working to eliminate lead poisoning globally and to protect the  
environment from lead in all its uses: past, current and new uses  
ABN 25 819 463 114

## **President's Report FY2020 – presented to AGM 28/10/20**

This President's Report was presented by Michelle Calvert-Kilburn at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The LEAD Group Inc. (TLG) held 6:30pm on Wednesday 28th October 2020 -in the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Lead Poisoning Awareness Day (as declared by The LEAD Group on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001) and the 24<sup>th</sup> Lead Poisoning Awareness Week (as declared by NSW Health Minister Dr Andrew Refshauge in 1997 as proposed by The LEAD Group), and the 8<sup>th</sup> International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (as declared by the World Health Organization in 2013, in response to a 2010 proposal from Elizabeth O'Brien).

### **President's Report by Michelle Calvert-Kilburn**

Our organisation has made a significant impact across local communities in Australia, especially for those people who have had the massive benefit of purchasing a LEAD Group kit and being advised by us to manage any lead contamination found in their environment. Through our online work with World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) and numerous NGOs worldwide, we have made the lives of many individuals and families lead-safe worldwide.

This is despite having received no government grant since the change to a Liberal/National coalition government in 2013. During FY2020, we still did not have any staff to submit new grant applications and all web administration was carried out by volunteers including JustOne Lead Soldier and Jimmy Yang. Also thanks to a COVID-19 Cash Boost from the Australian federal government, we were able to employ Jimmy Yang as our part-time web-admin guy in May 2020. Elizabeth O'Brien's wage finally became a living wage (it rose to 5 times her previous wage) thanks to a COVID-19 JobKeeper wage supplement from the end of March 2020. The COVID-19 Cash Boosts also allowed us to pay 5 members of the new Lead Test Results Website (LTRW) project team (just a tiny fraction of the value of the work they have done) to develop the site and its new database since July 2019.

We are hopeful that with Elizabeth getting some relief from managing The LEAD Group Kits; Volcano Art Prize and promoting the Lead Safe World Partnership because of a new staff hire last week, that all the work on the new LTRW site should come to fruition before the end of 2020. We were unable to enter all the enquiry emails in the database in FY2020 or scan and data-enter wanted lead articles from our Archives, but the good news is that a four-person

Lead Archives Digitisation Project (LADP) team has been employed since August 2020. The hope is that the files in the 8 filing cabinets and 34 boxes stored around Elizabeth's home and yard will all be digitised by early 2021.

In this, our 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation, we again provided thousands of Australian enquirers with free information and referrals on lead-safety and the prevention and management of lead contamination of the environment. Also some advocacy work, mostly because Elizabeth O'Brien works full-time and Tim Pye in the United Kingdom is very committed to helping where he can.

Elizabeth told me recently that she has long thought of The LEAD Group as her 4<sup>th</sup> child, a daughter. She said that The LEAD Group was conceived while she was pregnant with her third son, so she thinks of the two of them as twins and notes that therefore The LEAD Group and her youngest son Harry both turned 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. Although The LEAD Group didn't officially exist until it was incorporated in 1992 when, Elizabeth says, she (The LEAD Group) "started to talk". In February 1993, The LEAD Group (Elizabeth named her "Lily") "started to write". So it is very fitting that one of the first articles digitised by the LADP team and web-published by Jimmy Yang this month, was the first issue of our newsletter *LEAD Action News* vol 1 no 1 at <https://www.lead.org.au/lanv1n1/lanv1n1.html>. As well as all the issues in the first three volumes at <https://www.lead.org.au/nl.html> apart from *LEAD Action News* vol 2 no 3 – so if anyone still has a copy of the whole newsletter from 1994 at home, please send it in for scanning!

During Financial Year 2020, we published four issues of our "quarterly" e-newsletter *LEAD Action News* on both our main website - [www.lead.org.au/nl.html](http://www.lead.org.au/nl.html) - and our newer Lead Safe World website [www.lead safeworld.com/media-page](http://www.lead safeworld.com/media-page) – including numerous references to our lead safety art competition: [www.volcanoartprize.com](http://www.volcanoartprize.com) - the Volcano Art Prize (VAP) which utilised the \$480 "property" or "in-kind" donation from the VAP sponsor pictureproducts, for prizes, along with cash prizes gained from LEAD Group Kit sales.

The four FY2020 issues of *LEAD Action News* (the fourth one being our **80<sup>th</sup> issue**) can be found by clicking on the following links at <http://www.lead safeworld.com/media-page/> :

2020 June – LANv20n4 – Want something to do during lockdown – enter VAP 2020

\*LANv20n4 – Contents

2020 May – LANv20n3 – Lockdown, DIY and Lead

\*LANv20n3 – Contents





2020 January – LANv20n2 -Who can write a Brian Arndt wiki article

\* LANv20n2 – Contents

2019 October – LANv20n1 – Who can mend old leaded men

\* LANv20n1 – Contents

And also by clicking on the following links at <https://lead.org.au/nl.html> :

1. LEAD Action News vol 20 No 4, Want something to do during lockdown - enter Volcano Art Prize 2020!  Contents
2. LEAD Action News vol 20 No 3, Lockdown, DIY and Lead  Contents
3. LEAD Action News vol 20 No 2, Who can write a Brian Arndt Wiki article  Contents
4. LEAD Action News vol 20 No 1, Who can mend old leaded men  Contents

The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) generated **89** activities which were held in **73** cities in **55** countries in October 2019 – **the highest number of countries to date.**

The LEAD Group published the [List of Events for the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 20 to 26 October 2019](#) and this year requested, translated and published reports from organisations in the following countries over two issues of *LEAD Action News*:

In [LANv20n2](#) (*LEAD Action News* vol. 20 no. 2) we published the following ILPPWA event reports:

1. ILPPWA 2019 report – [leadinthewater.com](#) – United Kingdom
2. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Toxics Link India](#) – Lead in Paint
3. ILPPWA 2019 report – [CEPHED](#), Nepal
4. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Consumers' Association of Penang \(CAP\)](#), Malaysia
5. ILPPWA 2019 Event 1 report – [Association of Community Development \(ACD\)](#), Bangladesh
6. ILPPWA 2019 Event 2 report – [Association of Community Development \(ACD\)](#), Bangladesh
7. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Eco-Accord](#), Russia
8. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement \(JVE\)](#) Cameroun – FRENCH
9. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Young Volunteers for the Environment \(JVE\)](#) Cameroon – ENGLISH "
10. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Caribbean Poison Information Network](#), Jamaica
11. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Elizabeth O'Brien](#), The LEAD Group interviewed by [Lucinda Curran](#), [Eco Health Solutions](#), Australia
12. ILPPWA 2019 report – [Volcano Art Prize \(VAP\) 2019 Winners](#) announced by The LEAD Group, Australia

In [LANv20n4](#) (*LEAD Action News* vol. 20 no. 4) we published:

[ILPPWA 2019 report – ESDO Bangladesh](#)

The LEAD Group is very proud to be the organization that inspired the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) to mark ILPPWA each year annually since 2013. It was excellent that 2019 was the second year that the VAP award ceremony was joined for the first time on WHO's ILPPWA list of events page at [http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead\\_campaign/events/en/](http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/events/en/) and by a second NGO, [Hazelton North Action Group](#) (advocating against lead emissions from a proposed secondary lead battery smelter in Victoria) which held a Lead Week of Action event in Australia.

It's heartening to see that the word is spreading!