Oceanic Nutrition Leadership Platform (ONLP)

Short report of the second ONLP course
Genazzano Retreat
Lake Tinaroo, Queensland, Australia
1-8 July 2018

www.ONLP.org
@OceanicNLP
What is the Oceanic Nutrition Leadership Platform (ONLP)?
The ONLP is a network of emerging and established nutrition leaders from across the Oceania region (including Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands [Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia]), that was set up to develop leadership skills, facilitate collaboration, share knowledge and opportunities, acquire peer feedback, and create new avenues to support good nutrition practice, and capacity building. The ONLP was initiated by the Nutrition Society of Australia in partnership with the Nutrition Society of New Zealand and representatives from the Pacific Islands. It is modelled on, and forms part of, a Global Nutrition Leadership Platform encompassing established leadership platforms in Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle-East, USA and Latin-America.

Why is the ONLP important?
Working towards food and nutrition security in the face of major environmental, social and economic changes and challenges will be a major undertaking and current and future nutritionists will need a new set of paradigms to achieve this vision. Leadership skills, the ability to connect, collaborate, communicate and to influence are critical skills needed to build a strong nutrition workforce that will make a difference towards food and nutrition security, and ensuring health and wellbeing for all. The ONLP’s aim is to develop, inspire and connect a new generation of innovative leaders with foresight and broad vision of the integrative role of nutrition, who are working in the field of nutrition throughout Oceanic countries from different sectors including Academia, Research, Industry and Government and who are committed to working collaboratively towards food and nutrition security for Oceania. This aim will be realised through delivering a biennial 7-day leadership course for early- and mid-career individuals working in nutrition related fields within Oceanic countries (the ONLP course); and by building a strong and active network comprising of leadership course alumni (The ONLP network).

What is the ONLP course?
The ONLP course is an intensive 7-day, biennial program that enables early- and mid-career individuals working in nutrition related fields within Oceanic countries to develop diverse skills and knowledge, and is the gateway to joining the ONLP network. The ONLP course focuses on development of key areas including leadership, communication, team building, social responsibility, influencing policy and industry-public
Learning experiences are enhanced by experiential learning through team and committee activities, case-studies and real-life experiences shared by established nutrition leaders. The most recent ONLP course (ONLP 2018) was held from July 1st-6th 2018 at the Genazzano Retreat, Lake Tinaroo, Queensland, Australia. The next ONLP course (ONLP 2020) will be run in July 2020 (Location TBC); applications will open in mid-August 2019.

**ONLP 2018 Program overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Day 4</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
<th>Day 6</th>
<th>Day 7</th>
<th>Departure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30</td>
<td>8:30-10:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Influencing Policy</td>
<td>Industry – Public Health</td>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>Communication 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Leadership 3</td>
<td>Leadership 5</td>
<td>MORNING TEA</td>
<td>Industry – Public Health</td>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>Declaration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Morrow Tea</td>
<td>Leadership 4</td>
<td>Leadership 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>industry – Public Health</td>
<td>Communication 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Leadership 7</td>
<td>Communication 2</td>
<td>Communication 3</td>
<td>Communication 4</td>
<td>OMLPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Leadership 7</td>
<td>Communication 2</td>
<td>Communication 3</td>
<td>Communication 4</td>
<td>OMLPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td>Communication 1</td>
<td>Leadership 7</td>
<td>Leadership 8</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
<td>Communication 3</td>
<td>Communication 4</td>
<td>Closing Session</td>
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<td>15:00-17:30</td>
<td>Leadership 2</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
<td>Leadership 8</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
<td>Communication 3</td>
<td>Communication 4</td>
<td>OMLPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30-18:30</td>
<td>Welcome to Country</td>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>Socialising / Team &amp; Committee Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00-20:30</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Leader Story</td>
<td>Reflections</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:30-21:30</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Leader Story</td>
<td>Reflections</td>
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**ONLP governance structure**

The ONLP governance consists of an advisory board, management committee and a number of working groups. Members of the board, committee and working groups represent a range of government, industry and academic sectors.

**ONLP 2018 summary:**

**Participant demographic**

Twenty-two applicants (19 female, 3 male) were competitively selected and participated in ONLP 2018.
What did participants think of the 2018 course?

ONLP 2018 was rated highly by participants (On average, 93/100 for their experience in the course and 91/100 for the quality of the course). All participants completed the ONLP course. Specific ratings for individual course components are provided in the below chart.

The ONLP network (ONLPN)

The ONLP 2018 participants have joined the ONLPN, currently consisting of ~80 emerging and established nutrition leaders. An active, self-sufficient, network is the cornerstone for continued success of the ONLP. The purpose of the ONLPN is to sustain the relationships built during individual ONLP courses and foster new collaborations between ONLP course cohorts. Hence, the network provides a strong foundation for ongoing networking, collaboration, support and development within and beyond the individual ONLP courses.

How much does the ONLP course cost?

The ONLP 2020 course fees are $4000, which is a heavily subsidized amount thanks to our ONLP Course sponsors. The course fee includes all leadership training, course materials, food and accommodation. The ONLP will provide financial assistance to a limited number of candidates; candidates can apply for financial assistance for travel and/or course fee costs through the online application process - preference will be given to candidates from the Pacific Islands and/or candidates who demonstrate the greatest financial need and can demonstrate their intent/effort to seek funding.
How can I get involved?

Participants

Applications to participate in the ONLP 2020 course will open in mid-August 2019 and close in mid-October 2019. A call for applications will be made on the ONLP website www.ONLP.org. Applicants must address a number of selection criteria which are reviewed, relative to opportunity, by an independent selection committee. Successful applicants will be notified in December 2019.

Sponsors

We are keen to hear from organisations that are interested in sharing our vision of working towards sustainable food and nutrition security for Oceania by supporting the ONLP movement. Sponsoring the ONLP provides an opportunity to build your organisation’s profile within the food and nutrition professional community across Oceania and build links with other organisations in industry, academia, the public sector and the non-profit sector. Sponsorship enquiries can be addressed to Alice Owen (email: alice.owen@monash.edu).

ONLP 2018 participants


Front Row (L-R): Phillip Baker, Roxanne Portolesi, Jessica Danaher, Fiona Grieg, Emma Beckett
ONLP 2018 participant quotes

“To build in leadership, not bolt it on. That there are many different ways to lead. I learnt a lot about myself (values, personality type and the reflection exercises), which will be useful in other aspects of my life, not just at work. Having a greater understanding of the different personality types will be very useful when working with others.”

“I learned a lot about myself and how to practice leadership wherever one is. The communication workshops were particularly useful for me especially that they were different to the communication workshops that are available outside of ONLP”

“I have discovered so much about myself and my leadership style. It was very inspiring and reassuring listening to everyone’s leadership stories. Now I feel confident to be my authentic self and am armed with the tools and the compass that will help me to better navigate my leadership journey.”

“Thank you so much to everyone involved for this amazing course! Before going on the course I hoped that I would learn some useful leadership strategies (which I did!), but did not expect the wonderful connections I would build, or how the course would shift how I thought about myself and my abilities. I’m so grateful to all of the organisers for putting so much work into making it such a warm and supportive period and I feel very fortunate to have been able to take part - thank you!”

Additional information

The ONLP alumni network runs an online blog ([https://onlp2016.wordpress.com/blog/](https://onlp2016.wordpress.com/blog/)). Detailed information about the ONLP and the ONLP 2020 course can be found on the ONLP website ([www.ONLP.org](http://www.ONLP.org)). Any general enquiries can be addressed to ONLP Admin ([ONLP.management@gmail.com](mailto:ONLP.management@gmail.com)).