



Message from the Chair

A new Rotary year has begun. As we all look back on our achievements and ask ourselves "Where to from here?" I hope this Rotary year we can build on those successes.

"2.6 million children, under 5, died of malnutrition linked causes in 2015".

By joining with existing programs, Food Plant Solutions can make a difference to this statistic. Just as the Polio Eradication program began small, momentum was gained by involving other people and organisations, so can FPS do this with malnutrition, hunger and food security. In the past year we have gained connections and partners, as you would have seen in past newsletters, with many groups who see the benefit of our program and want to work with us. We need now to keep this growth moving upwards.

At our booth at the Rotary Convention in Seoul it was great to meet many old friends and to be able to talk to many other Rotarians who were very interested in the program, and want to work with us. I have personally written to many of the people we met. We have sent them a welcome pack and we have already had a positive response from many of them.

I also had the opportunity to meet with RI Director Moon from Seoul and staff of Rotary International, who were very supportive. They requested us to come to Rotary International Headquarters to do presentations to groups of staff working in the RAG area and in the Global Grants Area, so that they are all aware of the opportunity to assist Rotary groups in their applications e.g. add on a garden to a school or hospital being built. We will need to find the finances to do that, but I know what an asset this has been to other RAGs.

Walter Chrysler said "The reason many people never get anywhere in life when opportunity knocks, they are out the back garden looking for 4 leaf clovers". Let us not be one of those in the Rotary year when the theme is "Rotary Serving Humanity"

Yours in Rotary Service

PDG Una Hobday, Chair Food Plant Solutions

Wilderness Adventures in Vanuatu

Food Plant Solutions and SUP Wilderness Adventures have signed a Letter of Intent that is focused on helping to improve nutritional awareness in Vanuatu.

SUP Wilderness Adventures (www.supwildernessadventures.com) is an adventure travel company based in Queensland, Australia that specialises in small group travel to developing countries, engaging in 'meaningful travel'.

"We travel to remote villages in developing countries in Asia and the South Pacific," explains owner Chantal Clarke. "We consult with community leaders to understand the challenges they face, then undertake small-scale social and environmental projects."

Most trips span one to two weeks with 1-2 days set aside for the volunteer tourism component. During this time, participants exchange knowledge, devise locally-relevant solutions and implement a range of small-scale / high-impact projects. "Awareness is raised of the medicinal and nutritional benefits of native or commonly grown plant species. Assisting in a greater understanding of food for health, results in an improvement to overall community well-being, lessens reliance on expensive and inaccessible Western medicines, and reduce the incidence of preventable disease.

The objectives of SUP Wilderness Adventures closely align with those of Food Plant Solutions (FPS).

For further details about the project contact: info@foodplantsolutions.org or info@supwildernessadventures.com



Speaking Engagements:

FPS has the following engagements scheduled:

- RC of Scottsdale – 26th July, 2016
- RC of Devonport North – 28th July, 2016.
- Devonport School for Seniors, 6th September, 2016.

Program Countries

FPS has either developed or is in the process of developing educational publications for the following countries:

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Sri Lanka
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Western Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China
- N.E. India
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- South Africa
- Northern Thailand
- Ecuador
- Angola
- Pakistan
- Ghana
- Ethiopia
- Madagascar
- Bangladesh
- Myanmar

Donate Now!

Every \$1 donated will help 1 child in a developing country –

<http://foodplantsolutions.org/donate-to-food-plant-solutions/>

Rotary's Great Opportunity

In 1998, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative began, polio paralysed approximately **350,000** children per year. Due to the dedicated efforts of Rotary and its partners there has been a decrease of 99% in polio cases.

In 2015, approximately **2,600,000** children under the age of 5 died from malnutrition linked causes.

Like polio, hunger and malnutrition is preventable.

Like polio, Food Plant Solutions needs extensive partnerships.

Like polio, a long-term commitment is needed.

We are calling on all Rotarians to follow 'End Polio Now' with '**End Malnutrition NOW**'

Please contact us at info@foodplantsolutions.org to become part of '**End Malnutrition NOW**'



Gathering and Sharing Information

Bruce French - Officer of the Order of Australia

Spending all day chasing information on wild and less familiar edible plants of the world is for me fascinating. It takes me into the world of ethno-botanists, nutritionists, development workers and agro-ecologists - a diverse range of people. Usually these people have a bigger goal than simply making money. They are often spending their time and lives in the more remote areas of the world where people struggle daily with meeting their food requirements.

These days whenever I find a good article or book I try to email the author to express my thanks. From this I develop links with a wide range of specialists. All my work depends on their research, studies and results. I simply collate information and put it into easy to understand English, trying to get it back to those who need it most. About 2 billion people in the world suffer from under-nutrition.

I could end up with a long list of quotable quotes and perceptive insights as often people start their research articles with some profound summarizing comment on why the plants they are studying are significant. A recent link has been with Prof Louis Grivetti at Davis UC, who said, "Instead, we will consider how research has documented the important, critical roles wild plants play in maintaining the nutritional quality of traditional diets." He did his Ph. D. years ago studying less familiar plants in Botswana that people used to survive famine and was astounded by their botanical knowledge.

DOBMAC Supports FPS

Operating since 1983, DOBMAC Agricultural Machinery is an innovative, market leader in the design, manufacture, supply & maintenance of specialized agricultural machinery. With clients in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and USA, DOBMAC's forward-thinking approach and adaptation of modern technologies has led to it being widely recognised in the agricultural industry and is an award winning operation.

The manufacturing division produces a range of equipment including potato planters, harvesters, onion and carrot lifters, and specialized storage, grading, harvesting and packaging equipment for all types of vegetables, as well as

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having the unique ability to custom manufacture or modify equipment for a client's specific requirements.

DOBMAC recognises that Food Plant Solutions is an innovative approach to ending hunger, malnutrition and food security that works, as demonstrated by the significant results that are being achieved. With this in mind, DOBMAC has and continues to be a strong supporter of Food Plant Solutions. To join DOBMAC in supporting Food Plant Solutions please contact us at info@foodplantsolutions.org. For further details about DOBMAC please contact dobmac@dobmac.com.au

Crawford Fund Annual Conference



THE CRAWFORD FUND
For a Food Secure World

The Crawford Fund's annual food security conference is being held in Canberra on the 29th and 30th of August. Titled 'Waste Not, Want Not: The Circular Economy to Food Security', it will focus on food loss

and waste issues along the supply chain—in production, in getting product to market, and in the management and reuse of waste, with a special presentation on the role of supermarkets. Some of the world's best speakers will present, providing extended question and answer sessions and opportunities for informal networking.

As part of a Food Plant Solutions program that the Crawford Fund is supporting, our Technical Director, John McPhee, will be attending and will report back to members. Conference details can be found at

<http://www.crawfordfund.org/events/2016-conference/>

School Gardens Reaping Benefits



A program to lower malnutrition rates and introduce sustainable farming skills among children has reaped a harvest of benefits in rural central Vietnam. FPS has formed a valuable partnership with AOG World Relief Vietnam that is achieving

strong results in reducing malnutrition.

In two provinces, with very low average incomes, nutrition priorities pale in comparison to survival necessities. Benefits of the school gardens have included:

The students enjoy the benefits of the plants they have grown as they are provided with a nutritious lunch.

Families seeing the success and benefits of the garden replicate them at home.

Schools save money from not having to buy food, which means this money can be redirected to other necessities.

There has been an increase in enrolments as parents see the benefits, this frees up the parents to increase their household income as they have more time to work.

Malnutrition has significantly reduced – one school has seen a reduction of 80%, another 95% - IN ONE YEAR and despite an increase of enrolments due.

AOG World Relief Vietnam aims to continue to establish FPS gardens in schools in the rural communities in Vietnam and as a result, see healthier, happier and more prosperous families. For further details please contact

admin@aogwr.org or info@foodplantsolutions.org

