



## From the Chairman's Desk

Our group has been invited to present a key session at a combined Rotary conference and Zone Institute in New Zealand later this year. We have chosen the title: "Sustaining Food Supply - kept local - kept simple" because we believe this sums up our core goals within Food Plant Solutions. In addition, the overall theme for that part of the conference is - "Growing Local Economies". Our thrust is that by making families self-sustaining we assist in forming the launching pad to support whole community growth.

All members of Rotary reading these notes belong to a 'home' Rotary club. Please consider inserting a sharp paragraph into your club's weekly bulletin about Food Plant Solutions. We always need to inform and update other Rotarians about the easy potential for our ideas to work in hundreds of communities. Write to us ([info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)) requesting suitable words. Also, you may want to obtain some good publicity in your Rotary District Governor's Newsletter - I would be grateful. Again, write to us and ask for suitable wording plus a photo.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read that Buz Green has stepped back from the very active role he has maintained since we began this Rotarian Action Group (and before). We record our deep appreciation for his invaluable strategic thinking that has put us solidly to the fore in food security. His planning and vision combined with his clear scientific knowledge has been unique. Buz remains both my mentor and a mentor to Food Plant Solutions.

In Rotary Service  
**John G. Thorne, Chairman, Food Plant Solutions, Rotarian Action Group**

## 40 Chances

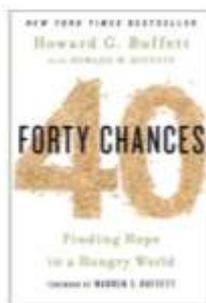
**Buz Green**

An intriguing name for a book but then again Howard Buffett is an intriguing individual. Son of the very famous investor, Warren Buffett, Howard is on a mission to inject \$3 Billion of his parents' wealth into the battle against global poverty and hunger over the next forty years. Not only has he fully immersed himself in the task but has travelled to more than 100 countries to gain firsthand knowledge of the plight of people in developing nations and the challenges they face. He has been able to witness firsthand the approaches to aid delivery that are working and what is not. Howard is a successful and innovative farmer and a very pragmatic person, who respects common sense above expertise. He has demonstrated that he is ever ready to support and be personally involved in smart solutions that make sense.

Howard has written a book on his experiences and learning titled 40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World. In the process he has documented some very pertinent insights on sustainable agricultural practices and rational approaches to aid delivery. He also records examples of some of the programs his foundation has been supporting and the amazing outcomes achieved. The book is very well written and is a must read for anyone who has a serious interest in the delivery of sustainable and sensible aid programs.



Howard's story is remarkable and he is a remarkable individual. His book is well worth reading as is a personal interview with Howard in the April 2014 edition of 'the Rotarian' magazine.



## Engagements:

Food Plant Solutions has the following engagements scheduled:

- 9140 District Conference, Asaba, Nigeria, 22-24 May, 2014
- RI Convention, Sydney, 14 June, 2014
- International Nutrition and Diagnostics Conference, Prague, 2-5 September, 2014
- Zone Institute, Wellington, New Zealand, 5-7 December, 2014

## Program Countries

Food Plant Solutions has either developed or is in the process of developing field guides, handbooks and posters for the following countries:

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Sri Lanka
- S. India
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Western Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China
- N.E. India
- Iran
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Myanmar
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- South Africa

Completed materials are available from our website.

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## Bayer Gives Generously to FPS

### Fleur Wilkins

At their recent National Conference, the Bayer CropScience Team in Australia and New Zealand raised \$4018 for Food Plant Solutions and, as part of Bayer's "Give" community investment program, this amount will be matched dollar for dollar to make a total donation of \$8036.

Dr Jacqueline Applegate, Managing Director Bayer CropScience ANZ said Bayer's Give program allows the company to make a positive impact in the areas they operate and helps to fulfill their mission: Science For A Better Life.

"At Bayer, we are committed to working with growers, partners and the wider community to improve the security of food and fibre supplies and our overall quality of life", she explained.

"As Food Plant Solutions is a project that helps people in developing countries learn about and grow the best local foods to match their nutritional needs, it makes sense that Bayer supports it to help enhance world food security and better people's lives."

John Thorne, Chairman, from Food Plant Solutions said, "We thank Bayer for their generosity and support. The challenges of managing growth under this project make financial contributions evermore appreciated. Each week, requests come in from around the world, seeking help and assistance to address hunger and malnutrition and communicate the Food Plant Solutions message where it can make a genuine difference in people's lives."

For more information on Bayer CropScience, visit; [www.bayercropscience.com.au](http://www.bayercropscience.com.au)



## Buz Green – Recognition Well Deserved

### John Thorne, Chairman, FPS

For over 7 years Buz Green has been the driving force behind Food Plant Solution (FPS). Having recognized the potential of the food plants database, he established a relationship between the organization behind the database (Food Plants International) and Rotary to establish FPS.

Buz, with the support of the FPS committee, Rotary and many volunteers has transformed FPS from a concept, into a dynamic international project. The time, effort and energy Buz has devoted to FPS is truly amazing. Since its creation, barely a day has passed where Buz hasn't sought to further develop FPS. His constant enthusiasm, discipline and drive to see the FPS message spread worldwide, to assist as many people as possible, is inspirational.

In 2010 Buz was presented the Paul Harris Fellow and at the recent District 9830 Conference in Tasmania, the District Governor (Bruce Buxton) announced that District had recognised the enormous voluntary work that Buz had contributed to the world-wide development of FPS. Bruce presented Buz with the Sapphire level within the Paul Harris Fellow recognition framework.

It is pertinent to note the wording on the Paul Harris Certificate - "A Paul Harris Fellow is in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world".



This latest recognition is fitting, appropriate and well deserved for Buz Green.

Recently Buz has had to step down from a leadership role with Food Plant Solutions due to a health issue. However, Buz remains a very valued mentor to the project. Although Buz will not be in attendance at the upcoming RI Convention, FPS will be very well represented.

## FPS in South Africa!

### Ntombi Mbinda

DEVAC – Development of Rural Areas Co-operative is an initiative that seeks to be part of a solution to global food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty reduction. Organized into co-operatives where each household has given the co-operative a right to work, train, administer and market the produce from the gardens. The aim is to provide a favorable environment for agricultural production and economic returns, where food sovereignty is the end result.

The system is based on principles of crop diversity, environmentally sound practices, using no chemical fertilisers or pesticides. It is a systematic approach that encompasses the entire food chain, from garden to the family dinner table and its linkages with economic areas and its activities.



Food Plant Solutions will provide DEVAC with guidance, information, material and technical support to help people overcome hunger and malnutrition. The FPS aim of achieving food security through better utilization of local food plants, enables the local people to appreciate some indigenous crops that are nutritious that might have been overlooked. Focusing on nutrition to curb malnutrition is a bonus instead of concentrating on filling the stomach but ignoring nutritional value.

This pilot project will be in the Eastern Cape in Mthatha 15 km from Qunu and 10 km from Mthatha CBD. The aim is to grow and influence other villages, spreading it across rural South Africa where fields and household gardens are part of most families.

## RI Convention

### Una Hobday, Secretary, FPS

#### Be Part of FPS in Sydney!

With Rotary International Convention in Sydney fast approaching, FPS will of course have a booth there – No. 105. Please visit us when you are in the house of friendship and if you are able to share some of your time with us on the booth, it would be appreciated.

If anyone will be in Sydney early and could assist us in setting up the booth on Friday morning before the conference, please contact Una Hobday @ [unahob@gmail.com](mailto:unahob@gmail.com)

#### Key Information:

- Break Out Session - Monday, June 2nd, 3.30- 5.00pm
  - ANZ Stadium – Olympians Room
- Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, June 4th, 2.00- 3.00pm
  - Novotel Hotel, Parklands Room
- Food Plant Solutions booth- Daily, June 1st - 4<sup>th</sup>
- Booth No. 105

