



Learn Grow Services Inc. Annual Report

2013—2014

Providing support services to



**FOOD PLANT
SOLUTIONS**
ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Report prepared by

John Phillips, Chairman and Karalyn Hingston, Project Administrator
on behalf of the Management Committee of Learn Grow Services Inc. (LGSi)

The Committee acknowledges and thanks all Rotary Districts, Rotary Clubs,

Rotarians, partner organisations, groups and individuals

who have supported Learn Grow Services Inc. throughout the past year.

For further information, please visit www.foodplantsolutions.org or email
info@foodplantsolutions.org

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INTRODUCTION

Learn Grow Services Inc (LGSi) was initially established as an administrative and financial vehicle to support the Learn♦Grow project. The name of this project was subsequently changed to Food Plant Solutions and thus the mission and purpose of LGSi continues as previously for the new entity.

FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS – Project Profile:

Tasmanian agricultural scientist, Bruce French, has spent over 30 years on a voluntary mission to document information on the food plants of the world. From this, Bruce has established a plain English database of over 26,600 edible plants. The database contains a variety of information on the plants including; where they are found and their climatic zones. In addition to this a selection of plants contain nutritional information, photos, where and how to grow, edible parts and how to use.

Rotarian Buz Green, of the Rotary Club of Devonport North in Tasmania (D9830), recognised the potential of the food plants database in the war against malnutrition. A relationship was developed between the organisation behind the food plants database, Food Plants International, and Rotary to establish what was ultimately to become Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group, operating as Food Plant Solutions (FPS). The project was formally established as the project vehicle in June 2007. Officially recognised by the board of Rotary International as a Rotarian Action Group in 2011 it has gained a significant international profile within Rotary.

FPS is the communication platform to create awareness, seek engagement from and empower Rotarians to develop and implement Food Plant Solutions in developing countries. The role of Learn Grow Services Inc. is to provide administrative support to Food Plant Solutions, which includes:

- Fund raising and funds management.
- Management of GST.
- Being the responsible entity for employment and the issues surrounding same including legal responsibilities, workers comp, insurance etc.
- Dealing with non-Rotary aid providers.
- Supporting FPS both financially and administratively as appropriate.

The prime objective of FPS is to provide resources, information and technical support to aid providers, whether they are Rotary, non-Rotary, government, non-government or other international organisations. This can be done by:

- Developing and maintaining guides that provide guidance to potential users, in using the database.
- Creating publications and resource materials through the use of the FPI database.
- Improving the process for extracting data from the FPI database.
- Sharing at no cost, publications and resource materials to aid providers for delivery in aid programs.
- Developing specific publications for aid providers, on a case-by-case basis.

Report from the Chairman

The project is now in its seventh year and continues to attract interest throughout the international community. Food Plant Solutions (FPS) now has approximately 4000 supporters, from 145 countries.

The early part of the year saw Inner Wheel District A77 select Food Plant Solutions to become the District International Project for the year. To qualify for nomination the project must benefit a country other than Australia and in addition to this, the members of Inner Wheel recognised the benefit and safety of Rotary controlled programs. This partnership was most beneficial to Food Plant Solutions as it raised awareness of and promoted our work, whilst also raising much needed funds. Our sincere thanks to Inner Wheel District A77.

September saw Bruce French attend the 3rd International Conference on Neglected and Underutilised Species in Ghana. With over 200 presentations, including one from Bruce, a major focus was on the collaboration between research organisations.

In mid-October the Food Plant Solutions Chairman – Dr John Thorne AM, was invited by the President of Rotary International to represent Rotary at the First Rotary China Conference in Sichuan. FPS has a great deal to offer some of the established Foundations and voluntary agencies and it was noted that our unique set of skills and expertise can be readily applied in the region. This was a fantastic opportunity to network and promote the project.

FPS has a history of working with Solomon Islands and during the year we were approached by the Isabel Education Authority. The Isabel community relies heavily on subsistence living with all families providing daily food for their families from their home gardens. Children are taught from an early age to help in the family garden. Utilising FPS materials in schools allowed the children to develop a better understanding of the food benefits of each crop and also allowed the children to identify and distinguish between crops. As noted by the Isabel Education Authority 'The FPS resource is multi-levelled and can be used right through to early secondary level'. FPS provided the authority with copies of books and posters for display and community reading throughout the province. This again highlighted the value in the publications created by FPS.

A 'Letter of Intent' (LOI) was signed with the newly formed School of Land and Food (SLaF) at the University of Tasmania. Titled 'Building cooperation to reduce poverty and hunger using neglected and underutilised food plants', it is anticipated that the LOI will in aid in applications for research funding and joint work with both research and undergraduate students.

A continuing MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed during the year, between Food Plants International, Bruce French, Rotary Club of Devonport North, District 9830, Food Plant Solutions and Learn Grow Services Inc.

Rotary International Convention was held in Sydney during the year, with thanks to our hard working volunteers, particularly Una Hobday, who coordinated our activities. It was again a great success. The booth looked fantastic and we signed up new Ambassadors from many parts of the world. These people form an integral part of the team through their support in promoting the project. Our Breakout Session was very successful, with the room overflowing with attendees! From this we are now working with the many contacts made, with a focus on value-adding to existing projects.

In addition to Rotary International Convention, we were also represented at D9830 District Conference and D9520 District Conference. Our thanks to all involved.

During the year we were approached by Don Hall who founded the Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation (PHMF) in Indonesia. Focusing on under privileged Indonesian children and having seen the medical problems that could have been avoided with the correct nutrition, PHMF sought our expertise. Following on from this a field guide 'Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia' was created. The field guide is now being audited in-country and will then be rolled out to an ever-expanding network.

Led by one of our volunteers – Paula Febey, our website was completely re-designed. This was a significant project for FPS, with the aim of having a site that was sleek, interactive and told the FPS story. Paula, working with Nova Design and Print, did an amazing job, with very positive feedback received. For the year we averaged 246 new visitors to the site, per month. It is anticipated that with the new site, this figure will continue to increase. Our sincere thanks to Paula and Nova Design and Print.

We now have now either developed or are in the process of developing field guides, handbooks and posters for 25 countries including;

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- Northern Thailand
- Sri Lanka
- Southern India
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Western Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China
- North Eastern India
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- South Africa

Our team of volunteer Technical Support Specialists has continued to grow in the last 12 months. This group of volunteers are integral to FPS and the development of field guides and supporting publications. Our sincere thanks to each of them, with particular thanks to Dr Kevin Clayton-Greene, John McPhee, Melanie Bower and Rick Campbell for their work in leading our Technical Group.

During the year our Founding Director - Buz Green had to step down from a leadership role due to a health issue. For over 7 years Buz was the driving force behind FPS. Buz, with the support of the committee, Rotary and many volunteers transformed FPS from a concept, into a dynamic international project. On behalf of the committee I gratefully acknowledge the energy and effort that Buz has devoted to this project, it is inspirational. Buz remains a very valued mentor to the project.

One of our greatest challenges continues to be funding and human resources. Our volunteers do an out-standing job and I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them. A particular thank you to Lou Johnson who resigned during the year after serving as a valued committee member for many years.

Financial Reports

Divisional Profit and Loss Statement

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

**DIVISIONAL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Food Plant Solutions			
INCOME			
Donations Rotary Clubs		22,295	14,829
Donations general		-	10,525
Subscriptions		2,890	221
Contribution from Devonport North Rotary Club Inc.		-	47,161
GST refund 2012		-	1,350
		<u>25,185</u>	<u>74,086</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Administration expenses		-	2,470
Bank charges		57	96
Courier fees		350	-
Filing fees		59	58
Licences and registrations		-	70
Meeting expenses		-	722
Postage		9	434
Printing and stationery		3,498	776
Professional fees		-	25,579
Video expenses		400	-
Website		4,987	-
		<u>9,360</u>	<u>30,205</u>
		<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,881</u>
NET OPERATING PROFIT		<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,881</u>

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072DIVISIONAL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
<hr/>			
Learn Grow Services			
INCOME			
Donations Rotary Clubs		7,000	5,000
Donations General		11,787	5,184
CD's and DVD's		730	391
T Shirts		150	-
Sponsorship		7,070	35,400
Seminar fees		1,780	-
Interest received		1,008	414
GST refund 2012		-	902
		<u>29,525</u>	<u>47,291</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Conference expenses		8,012	-
Professional fees		7,070	30,113
T Shirts - promotional expense		670	-
Salary		15,655	15,758
Superannuation		1,416	1,420
		<u>32,823</u>	<u>47,291</u>
		(3,298)	-
NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)		<u>(3,298)</u>	<u>-</u>

Profit and Loss Statement

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Gross profit-contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	15,824	43,881
Gross profit (loss) contribution from: Learn Grow Services	(3,298)	-
	<u>12,526</u>	<u>43,881</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Wages	56	-
	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>12,470</u>	<u>43,881</u>
NET OPERATING PROFIT	<u>12,470</u>	<u>43,881</u>

Profit and Loss Appropriation Statement

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

**PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
NET OPERATING PROFIT		12,470	43,881
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		<u>54,589</u>	<u>10,708</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>67,060</u>	<u>54,589</u>

Balance Sheet

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bendigo Bank cheque account (430)		50,380	58,340
Bendigo Bank (Food Plant Solutions Acct)		15,145	-
ATO assets	1	1,535	-
		<u>67,060</u>	<u>58,340</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>67,060</u>	<u>58,340</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
ATO liabilities	1	-	3,751
		<u>-</u>	<u>3,751</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>-</u>	<u>3,751</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>67,060</u>	<u>54,589</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		67,060	54,589
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>67,060</u>	<u>54,589</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
1 Good and services tax:		
June BAS outstanding	1,541	(3,720)
GST adjustment outstanding	(6)	(31)
	<u>1,535</u>	<u>(3,751)</u>

Auditor's Report



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN GROW SERVICES INC

Scope

We have audited the financial statements, being the Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet and notes to and forming part of the financial statements of Learn Grow Services Inc for the year ended 30th June 2014

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's and economic entity's financial position, the results of their operations and their cash flows.

In common with other organizations of this nature, part of the Incorporation's income is derived from cash sources, over which there was no system of internal control upon which we could rely for the purposes of our audit and there are no alternative practical procedures which could be adopted to verify the amount of income from those sources.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the scope of the audit not been restricted as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with the accounting policies, the financial position of the Learn Grow Services Inc as at the 30th June 2014

Cameron's

GREG HARPER

Date: 13th November 2014

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Launceston Tasmania 7250

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Scottsdale TAS 7280
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Fax: 03 6352 2147

DEVONPORT
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PO Box 166
Devonport TAS 7310
Phone: 03 6422 7888
Fax: 03 6424 5498
AUSDOC DX 3304

ULVERSTONE
3a The Quadrant
PO Box 401
Ulverstone TAS 7515
Phone: 03 6425 0666
Fax: 03 6425 5089
AUSDOC DX 7890

Profile of Management Committee Members

John Phillips, Chairman and Public Officer



John Phillips has been a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for over 20 years. John was instrumental in the formation and management of the Bass Building Society until it merged with the Equitable Building Society to become the Bass & Equitable Building Society in November, 1988. John was appointed General Manager of the merged Society, resigning in February 1992 to take up the position of State Manager for CUAMIC, a lenders mortgage insurance company. John and his wife, Julie, are owners and Directors of Tassie Home Loans Pty. Ltd. John resigned as Managing Director in May, 2009, but has remained on the Board. John has served for many years on the National Committees of both the Building Societies Association and was presented with Life Membership of the Mortgage Industry Association for his years of service.

As a member and Past President of the Devonport North Rotary Club, John volunteered for the position of Finance Director of FPS in 2010.

Kevin Matthews, Treasurer



Kevin Matthews qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1983 and has worked in Public Practice for almost 40 years. He operated his own practice in Devonport for 8 years before joining Camerons as its Devonport partner in 1998. Kevin has wide experience in advising small to medium businesses in management and taxation matters.

Kevin joined Rotary in 2011 as a member of the Rotary Club of Devonport North and was appointed as a Board Member for the 2013/14 year.

Karalyn Hingston, Secretary



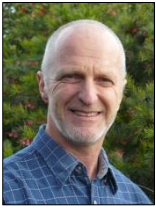
Karalyn Hingston has over 20 years' experience in the agricultural sector, with a wide range of skills and experience including; administration, quality systems, human resources, freight and production. Karalyn joined Food Plant Solutions in October 2012 and is the Project Administrator.

Bruce French



Bruce French has been involved in a range of Christian ministries and has worked for several international organisations involved with agriculture and food production for the tropical world. He has compiled a database of edible plants of the world and produced several books. He is the director of Food Plants International.

John McPhee



John McPhee has a background in agricultural engineering and has worked in the Tasmanian vegetable industry since moving from Queensland over 20 years ago, firstly with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and now with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. John's focus is controlled traffic farming systems for vegetable production, with the objective of developing and encouraging the adoption of more sustainable and profitable production systems. He first became involved in Food Plants International as an inaugural Board member in 1999, and joined the Learn Grow project as an FPI representative on its formation in 2007. John recently left the FPI Board, but continues as a volunteer with Learn Grow, with a major input into publications editing and preparation, and developing guidelines to allow other volunteers make the best use of the FPI database.

Buz Green (in recess since Feb 2014)



Buz Green is Chairman of agricultural consultancy business Serve-Ag Pty Ltd, a company which provides advice, specialised crop inputs and technology to Tasmanian farmers. He is also a founding director of a number of agricultural companies involved in agricultural research, analytical services, agricultural projects and product development throughout Australia. He has over 40 years' experience in production agriculture, agricultural research and extension and management and has worked in agricultural production projects in China and Fiji. He has served on many professional boards including the Tasmanian Development Board, the Tasmanian Board of Agricultural Education and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, a recipient of the 2011 Graham Gregory award and the 2012 AusVeg Lifetime Service Award for his services to the horticultural industry. Buz is a member of the Rotary Club of Devonport North.

Paula Febey



Paula Febey has a diverse background and has held various positions in a broad range of industries including media, hospitality, agriculture and health. She is currently working in Surgical Devices. Paula joined Food Plant Solutions taking on a Communications role to assist with marketing, sponsorship and public relations. Paula has been involved with several Community Groups and Projects including volunteering in a remote Aboriginal Community. Paula looks forward to assisting the Food Plant Solutions Team achieve their goals.

Kath Downie



Kath Downie trained as a School Teacher, teaching in both Tasmania and Victoria, before returning to Tasmania to successfully own and manage a General Store with her husband and 4 children.

In 2010 Kath graduated from UTAS with a degree in Tourism and since then has been involved with the community, both as an elected councillor and as a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Ulverstone.

Rick Campbell



Rick is a Veterinary Surgeon and a Rural Science graduate who worked for the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment for 29 years, providing animal health management advice to Tasmanian farmers. Most recently Rick has concentrated on Emergency Disease Management having worked in a number of disease outbreaks in Australia and the United Kingdom. He also has an ongoing involvement in Animal Welfare as the Chairman of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Rick is a member of Devonport North Rotary.