

From the Chairman's Desk

During this part of the year many voluntary groups, including Rotary, apply for funding grants from a variety of sources for their key project activities. I am sure that you, your club or organization has an activity that needs money to advance its cause. Let me share a positive way to greatly increase the chances of you being successful. As an example, it has been shown that in almost all cultures increasing the educational opportunities for girls

will greatly increase the overall capacity of families. A hurdle for the maturing teenage girl in many communities is the lack of toilets in the local school and there comes a time when the girls may stop going to school because of this. Toilets in schools may be the difference between girls continuing their education or not.

Recently a global meeting of eminent economists declared that to reduce malnutrition was by far the most effective use of money in a developing economy - sustainable local food gives more "bang for the buck" than any other aid program.

The powerful thing that you can do is to add together the two concepts when applying for a grant. In my simple example above if a grant application included a quest for a toilet in a school combined with a school garden that included "Food Plant Solutions" concepts, then the grant application may be considered much more favourably.

My example used school toilets as a partner - however equally we might think of potable water, cooking fires, other education measures, micro-credit for women or eye-camps. Each activity would be greatly enhanced by adding a strong aspect of tackling malnutrition as we do through Food Plant Solutions. Please consider adding this feature to your work.

Thank you.

"Light Up Rotary"

John G. Thorne, Chairman, Food Plant Solutions

Get Involved!

Food Plant Solutions (FPS) is a project that helps people in developing countries learn about and grow the best local foods to match their nutritional needs. It's a self-sustainable solution to hunger and malnutrition.

With a worldwide supporter base of approximately 4,400 FPS continues to receive increased requests for assistance.

How can you help?

Please contact us and tell us how you have utilised FPS. We would love to hear your experience so that it can then be shared with our network.

Raise awareness of the project. Consider all your contacts whether they be Rotary or non-Rotary, government or non-government; - anybody who FPS could link in with. Perhaps you are working with a project that could be enhanced with an FPS component added into it?



Help us to raise funds. All publications, technical support etc. that FPS provides is done so at NO COST to the recipient. To enable us to continue this innovative project we need your continued financial support.

Please contact us at:
info@foodplantsolutions.org

Engagements:

Food Plant Solutions has the following engagements scheduled:

- Rotary Club of Bellerive, Tasmania 24th February, 2015
- Permaculture Convergence, Penguin, Tasmania 7-15th March, 2015
- District 9830 Conference, Burnie, Tasmania 20-22nd March, 2015
- D9780 Conference, Maryborough, Queensland 22nd March, 2015
- Probus Club of Hobart Macquarie, Tasmania 14th April, 2015
- Zone 8 Institute, Melbourne, Victoria 20-22nd November, 2015

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
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- South Africa
- Northern Thailand
- Ecuador

Completed materials are available from our website -

www.foodplantsolutions.org

Donate Now!

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

www.foodplantsolutions.org



Food Diversity

Bruce French

At the recent World International Congress there was a presentation and discussion about Africa, where they had discovered the idea of using local plants that are adapted to local conditions. Then though they had applied their logic of selecting the highest yielding kind and mono-culturing it on a larger scale.

Observations were soon made that using only one cultivated variety, detached from its ecological system soon became victim to pest and disease.

My concern, is that this approach also reduces the local diet to one of monotony and boredom. Usually a local producer maintains a rich diversity of cultivated varieties not only for ecological security against the vagaries of climate and pests and diseases, but also to add richness, colour and variety to their diet. The quickest way to improve diets and end up with a more balanced nutrition, is to diversify the diet.

Older anthropological studies in Papua New Guinea indicated that an average family based their diet on an average of 40 plant species of which the major kinds were grown in dozens of cultivated varieties.

This loss of diversity is becoming of major concern to nutritionists, conservationists and farming systems analysts. Food security is becoming a 'mantra' of those concerned with global food supplies, but often sustainable production systems are ignored.

In Papua New Guinea they had 5,000 kinds of sweet potato, 650 kinds of bananas and a large number of kinds of taros and yams. As well as enjoying the diversity, they all had their unique taste and textures, as well as suiting different locations and conditions. They also fit in, in different ways, in the dietary patterns as snacks, main meals, ceremonial exchange, gifts, storability, etc. In my view, this is not a relic from the past but the hope for the future.



Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation and FPS in Indonesia

Don Hall – Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation



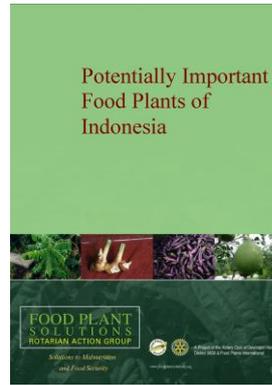
The partnership between the Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation (PHMF) and Food Plant Solutions (FPS) is continuing to make significant progress in Indonesia.

Recently PHMF received recognition by 'Wowshack' as the No.1 charity that makes Indonesia a better place - <http://www.wowshack.com/11-charities-that-make-indonesia-a-better-place>

The field guide 'Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia' has been reviewed in-country by Yayasan Usaha Mulia <http://www.yumindonesia.org>, who PHMF have supported since 2008.

This guide contains approximately 40 edible plants, from all of the major food groups, with each plant able to be grown with minimal inputs, whilst being high in nutrients. In addition to this, the guide also explains how to grow them, what parts are edible and how to use those parts. In

summary, it provides information to grow nutritious food in a self-sustainable way.



A second publication 'Food Plants for healthy diets in Indonesia' is currently being created. With the field guide as the source information, this publication will have limited text and be primarily pictures, making it a very useful publication for those with limited literacy, schools and community groups.

In August 2014, we established a working relationship with Rotary District 3410. We are committed to

working with Indonesian Rotary Districts and also with our own network of charitable organisation that we have a 10 year history with.

The next step is to network the completed field guide to Indonesian Rotary, Aid Organisations & others. We are actively seeking partners to help us spread the benefits of the FPS program promoting the Field Guide to the many areas of Indonesia that could benefit from this information.

Please come on board and make a difference!

Contact PHMF at pahmf@priscillahall.org or FPS at info@foodplantsolutions.org

District Conference – D9830

Una Hobday

Our District Conference runs from the 20th to the 22nd of March in Burnie and what a great time to celebrate the soil (2015 is International Year of the Soil). Let's encourage people to start a veggie garden and talk to their children and families about the soil.



We encourage you all to book for the Conference and learn more about the projects Food Plant Solutions are involved in.

We have many Ambassadors but are looking to have one from each club. If your club does not have an Ambassador maybe you could consider this position? We would also like some assistance at the display during the conference. If you would like to help please contact Una Hobday (Coordinator) @ unahob@gmail.com

See you at Conference where we celebrate and Light up Rotary

Positions Vacant!

FPS are seeking committed, enthusiastic individuals to fill the following volunteer vacancies:

- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Technical Support Specialists (for Angola, Nigeria and Zambia)
- Social Media Coordinator

Please contact us at info@foodplantsolutions.org for details.

2016 Calendar

We are pleased to advise that there will be a 2016 FPS fundraising calendar. Details will be forwarded to you soon!