



## Message from the Chair

I have woken in France to a most glorious, sunny, spring day. Crispness in the air, a blue sky and warm sun. My spring flowers are in bloom and my vegetable garden has been prepared to plant my summer vegetables. But, it made me think then of the children who have

died of malnutrition while I am enjoying my day. We must continue to **"Be a gift to the world"** whilst we work for food security for all the children of the world.

Some of you may be aware we are really in need of a corporate sponsor to continue the work of preparing, translating, printing and distribution of our publications. We continue to search for that company or person and ask that you consider introducing us to your network. We are also pursuing the opportunities that Crowdfunding seems to offer us. More news of this effort in coming newsletters. If anyone would like to join us on that committee, please let me know. Susanne Schantz from Small Island Studio is helping us in this task. Thank you Susanne and Johanna Baker-Dowdell for all the support and encouragement you are giving us.

For Rotarians, this is the time of the year to plan for next year, when the theme will be **"Rotary Serving Humanity"** - a very relevant theme for our RAG. Please take the opportunity to speak at your District Assembly so that all Rotarians keep Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group at the forefront of their minds. We can send you posters, pamphlets etc. and a polo shirt with our logo to wear at your presentation.

Yours in Rotary Service

**PDG Una Hobday, Chair Food Plant Solutions**

## Rotary International Convention, Seoul 28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June

Our Chair – PDG Una Hobday will be at Rotary International Convention. If you are coming to the Convention, please call in and say "Hi" at booth number 3238, and, if you can, stay for a chat. Una would love to meet new people and to catch up with old friends of Food Plant Solutions. Additionally, Una will be taking part in a workshop, chaired by Eun-Soo Moon, RI Director 2017- 2019 on the topic of 'Enhancing the Professionalism of your Service Project' between 1.30 and 3:00pm Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. We encourage you to add that to your list of things to attend while you are at the convention.



## Art Auction, Dinner and Exhibition for FPS

Crucial to the on-going work of Food Plant Solutions is the need for funds. With this in mind, Fundraising Director – John Phillips, has formed a small committee, which has organised an Art Exhibition, Dinner and Auction. To be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, at St. Brendan-Shaw College in Devonport, this is guaranteed to be a gala event.

Approximately 50 artists will be participating with over 100 paintings on display and for sale, with FPS receiving a commission from the purchase price for all sales. The dinner will be held on the Friday evening (8<sup>th</sup> July) and will include two artists painting during the meal, with their paintings for sale at the end of the dinner. Additionally, there will be a pianist accompanying a well renowned vocal artist during the evening.

This is a great opportunity to support Food Plant Solutions and we welcome your enquiries - [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)

## Speaking Engagements:

FPS has the following engagements scheduled:

- D9830 District Assembly – 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016
- International Convention Seoul, South Korea, 28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016
- RC of Devonport North – 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.
- Devonport School for Seniors, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 call on all Rotarians to follow 'End Polio Now' with '**End Malnutrition NOW**'

Please contact us at [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org) to become part of '**End Malnutrition NOW**'

## Three Aspects of Food

**Bruce French - Officer of the Order of Australia**

Current events especially in Africa and Syria, highlight 3 aspects of food and nutrition that can easily become confused. They are famine, hunger and malnutrition.

Famines currently occurring in Ethiopia, Somalia, Southern Sudan and Zimbabwe may get world attention. However, in the middle of a famine is not the time to be expecting people to change or improve their farming practices. About 40-50 million people are faced with famine at the moment and get deep emotional reactions and dramatic media attention, but little long term benefit or solutions.

Hunger for about 750 million is a daily shortage of sufficient food to adequately fill their stomachs. Sometimes it is a regular seasonal occurrence. It may be that their food production systems need improving to give more adequate food supplies on a regular basis. Usually these are the poor who cannot afford expensive inputs and need appropriate and sound agro-ecological methods that they can apply. Even promoting the use of mulch to reduce evaporation and protect soils can give significant yield increases. Encouraging people to reduce burning of trash and encouraging the use of legumes, especially some of the 1,800 edible ones can improve soils and increase yields. Naturally, local plants suit local conditions so give more stable and sustainable production.



The more subtle and pernicious concern with food these days is called "Hidden hunger" where the food may have sufficient bulk to satisfy hunger pangs but lacks essential micronutrients to give a balanced and

adequate diet. It is a form of under-nutrition. The effects can range from the horrific joint deformities called Kashin-Beck disease in Tibet where selenium and iodine deficiency are involved. The less well noticed Vitamin A deficiency causing a child to go blind every minute, or the zinc deficiency causing stunting and low disease resistance for



millions are more easily addressed. Leaves cooked in oil for Vitamin A and eating seeds and nuts for zinc, can address these. With 30% of the world, especially women, being debilitated due to anaemia or iron deficiency, the importance of increasing the diversity of foods, especially dark green leaves, needs promotion. Thankfully, there are about 8,000 choices of edible leaves, suitable for every location in the world. But local people don't know their value and importance unless someone tells them.

## Bioversity International

Bioversity International is the world's largest international research organization dedicated exclusively to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. Bioversity is committed to research that can:

- help foster sustainable development
- help people living in poverty secure dignified and sustainable livelihoods through food and agricultural production
- help raise nutrition levels in areas where hunger is widespread
- help keep communities and the environment healthy.

Recently, Food Plant Solutions received a Letter of Support from their Director General – Ann Tutwiler.

Extracts from the letter include: "*Clearly the work of Food Plant Solutions aligns very closely with the objectives of Bioversity International, particularly with regard to the need to respond and provide information and technical support to groups interested in making greater use of underutilised species in developing countries to address hunger, malnutrition and food security issues.*

*One of the greatest barriers to promoting and reviving interest in the use of traditional food crops has been the lack of information on their nutritional properties, an obstacle that both Food Plant Solutions and Bioversity are trying to address by documenting and generating reliable data on the nutritional properties of traditional crops. Efforts undertaken by Food Plant Solutions to document existing information to positively impact nutrition development programmes and food assistance in developing countries are to be greatly commended. As is its focus on raising awareness of the nutritional value of local food plants.*

*In conclusion, given the much needed improvement to the quality and diversity of diets worldwide and the demand for alternative and sustainable approaches to solving malnutrition, I fully support the efforts of Food Plant Solutions as they seek to provide guidance to new and existing projects that have the resources and ability to deliver the message and implement programs on the ground by making greater use of local food plants."*



Support from the preeminent leader in our field reaffirms the significance and value of our work, which is being recognized world-wide.

Further details about Bioversity International can be found at <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/>