



# Learn Grow Services Inc. Annual Report

2012—2013

*Providing support services to*



**FOOD PLANT  
SOLUTIONS**  
ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Report prepared by

Buz Green, Executive Director and Karalyn Hingston, Administrative Officer  
on behalf of the Management Committee of Learn Grow Services Inc. (LGSi)

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

Rotarians and partner organisations, groups and individuals

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

For further information, please visit [www.foodplantsolutions.org](http://www.foodplantsolutions.org) or email  
[info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto: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 26,000 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 internationally.

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 Executive Director

During the year the Learn♦Grow Project was renamed Food Plant Solutions (FPS). This followed a decision made at a strategic planning workshop held in October 2012 with John Thorne PRID as Chairman and Buz Green appointed Executive Director (and effectively Project Coordinator).

The project is now in its sixth year and continues to attract increasing interest throughout the international Rotary community. Food Plant Solutions now has 2,000 Rotarians from 94 countries and at least one Rotarian from each of 323 of the 540 Rotary Districts internationally.

In the early part of this year our main objective was to enhance our ability to deliver to organisations or groups who are interested in developing programs to address hunger, malnutrition and food security in developing countries. A major aspect of this was the development of documentation to guide new groups in exploring opportunities and implementing programs as well as to train specialists to provide technical support. For each new country an appropriately qualified volunteer Technical Support Specialist (TSS) is appointed to work exclusively on that country.

With this work completed our focus could be directed more at delivery and during the year we have engaged in new initiatives in nine new countries. We are supporting programs and have either developed, or are in the process of developing field guides, handbooks and posters for 20 countries including:

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China

The recent inclusion of North Korea and China in this list is particularly pleasing. These inclusions are in support of the work of the Rotary Club of Shanghai.

We have been pleased to have the following volunteer specialists included in our TSS team during the year: Lyndie Kite (D9790), Dr Phillip Brook (UK), Susanne Harper (Peracto Devonport), Peracto South Australia, Lindsay Jolley (D9790), Michael Hill (D9910-NZ), Michael Goddard, and Dr Winston Johnston (D7820-Canada). Particular thanks to Dr Kevin Clayton-Greene, John McPhee and Melanie Bower for their ongoing work in the Technical Support Group, which provides support to the TSS team now numbering 18, including 10 non-Rotarians. During the year field guides were completed for Cambodia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Guinea, Uganda and Western Pacific and the Haiti Handbook was upgraded. Work continues on field guides for Tanzania, India, Vietnam, Philippines, North Korea and China and the Sierra Leone guide is being further upgraded. Response to the completed field guides has been very positive and it is pleasing to see these guides leading to the increasing development of new initiatives in many developing countries. During the year a review of the Solomon Islands program was conducted by Bronwyn Beechey with support from SI program manager, Ross Andrewartha. This will help to further enhance this program.

Communication with non-Rotary aid providers continues and strong interest has been shown by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). This organisation is funding a pilot project for Papua New Guinea and Bruce French is participating in this. Collaborative links with national and international aid providers continue to be explored. During the year Bruce French's appointment as an Honorary Associate of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture was re-confirmed.

The Strategic Planning workshop held on October 20, 2012 involved most of our major stakeholders and a revised strategic plan has been prepared. It confirms our mission to provide guidance, information, materials and technical support to existing aid providers who have the ability and networks on the ground in target countries. As new information and materials are completed they will be posted on the web to enable access from other parties who may be interested. Our mission includes bringing parties with a common interest together and this is beginning to happen.

During the year we participated in the Rotary International Institute in San Diego, the Rotary International convention in Lisbon and the D9830, D9790 and D9520 district conferences. We were pleased to be invited by Rotary Services to participate in a series of international webinars on hunger and malnutrition. Two were conducted in English and one each in Spanish and Portuguese reaching a total of 200 Rotarians from all over the world.

Our newsletter, news bulletins, social media and website are recognised as our most important platforms for communication and these are constantly being worked on to maximise their impact. Traffic to our website ranged 180-360 hits per month and averaged 270 hits/month throughout the year.

Our greatest challenges continue to be funding and human resources to operate the project. Malcolm MacDonald and Associates (MMA) was appointed to coordinate the project two years ago however, lack of sufficient funding necessitated termination of this appointment in February. An alternative role was developed with the appointment of Karalyn Hingston as Administrative Officer in a casual position based at Devonport, with office and supporting services contributed by Serve-Ag P/L.

This year we have had major support from District 9790 with DG partner Eileen Gatt making FPS her project of focus. Districts 9520, 9600, 9630, 9640, 9700, 9790 and 9830 have been particularly supportive both in taking initiative and in donations. Sponsorship from outside Rotary continues to be explored.

Food Plant Solutions involves a team of dedicated volunteers locally, nationally and internationally supported by a very capable administration. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of our volunteers and particularly to the committee for their ongoing support. A particular thanks to Chairman John Thorne for his support and to Sue Davies who resigned as secretary this year after significant input over several 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 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Food Plant Solutions</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations Rotary Clubs		14,829	-
Donations General		10,525	-
Subscriptions		221	-
Contribution from Devonport North Rotary Club Inc.		47,161	36,152
GST refund 2012		1,350	-
		<u>74,086</u>	<u>36,152</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration expenses		2,470	23,296
Bank charges		96	-
Conference expenses		-	2,148
Filing fees		58	-
Licences and registrations		70	-
Meeting expenses		722	-
Postage		434	-
Printing and stationery		776	-
Professional fees		25,579	-
		<u>30,205</u>	<u>25,444</u>
		<u>43,881</u>	<u>10,708</u>
<b>NET OPERATING PROFIT</b>		<u>43,881</u>	<u>10,708</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.  
ABN 59 735 779 072DIVISIONAL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Learn Grow Services</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations Rotary Clubs		5,000	-
Donations General		5,184	-
CD's and DVD's		391	-
Sponsorship		35,400	-
Interest received		414	-
GST refund 2012		902	-
		<u>47,291</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			
Professional fees		30,113	-
Salary		15,758	-
Superannuation		1,420	-
		<u>47,291</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
<b>NET OPERATING PROFIT</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Profit and Loss Statement

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.  
ABN 59 735 779 072

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Gross profit contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	43,881	10,708
Gross profit contribution from: Learn Grow Services	-	-
	<u>43,881</u>	<u>10,708</u>
<b>NET OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<u>43,881</u>	<u>10,708</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## 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 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>NET OPERATING PROFIT</b>		43,881	10,708
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		<u>10,708</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<u><b>54,589</b></u>	<u><b>10,708</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

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## Balance Sheet

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.  
ABN 59 735 779 072

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bendigo Bank cheque account (430)		58,340	10,708
		<u>58,340</u>	<u>10,708</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>58,340</u>	<u>10,708</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
ATO liabilities	1	3,751	-
		<u>3,751</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>3,751</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>54,589</u>	<u>10,708</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Profits		54,589	10,708
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>54,589</u>	<u>10,708</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## 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 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
1 Good and services tax:		
June BAS outstanding	3,720	-
GST adjustment outstanding	31	-
	<u>3,751</u>	<u>-</u>

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Compilation Report

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.  
ABN 59 735 779 072

COMPILATION REPORT  
TO LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.

### Scope

On the basis of information provided by the director of Learn Grow Services Inc. we have compiled in accordance with APES 315 'Compilation of Financial Information' the special purpose financial report of the company for the period ended 30 June 2013, as set out on pages 2 to 4.

The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial report has been prepared is set out in Note 1. The extent to which Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements have or have not been adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial report is set out in Note 1.

The director is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the company's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the director and member of the company.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information, which the director provided into a financial report. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage which any person, other than the company may suffer arising from any negligence on our part. No person should rely on the special purpose financial report without having an audit or review conducted.

The special purpose financial report was prepared for the benefit of the director and member of the company and the purpose identified above. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial report.

CAMERONS  
26 Forbes Street  
DEVONPORT TAS 7310

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06 November 2013

## 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 2013

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 2013

#### Camerons



.....  
GREG HARPER

Date: 31/10/13  
46 Cameron Street  
Launceston Tasmania 7250

## Profile of Management Committee Members

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### Buz Green, Executive Director



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 nearly 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 career achievements. Buz is a member of the Rotary Club of Devonport North and has been a driving force in the establishment of Food Plant Solutions.

### 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 provides administration support.

### Lou Johnson



Lou Johnson is a Chartered Accountant and has been in public practice for over 35 years. He specialises in taxation, auditing and strategic planning.

A distinguished Rotarian, Lou is a member of the Rotary Club of Launceston West, and is a Past District Governor. He has served on a number of district committees and is the Immediate Past Chairman of RAWCS and current Chairman of the National Insurance Committee.

### **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.

### **John Phillips**



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.

### 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 recently joined Food Plant Solutions taking on a Communications role to assist with marketing, sponsorship and public relations.

She 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.