



From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings. The potential for change for millions of people in this world is gigantic and **YOU** are the key for this action.

In June of this year there will be the annual convention of Rotary International in Sydney, Australia. It will be exciting and offers a wonderful opportunity for people to share ideas and empower their own feelings. I encourage you to attend and if you have not yet

decided, please consider it.

At the Convention we would encourage you to participate actively in these offerings by **Food Plant Solutions**:

- The break-out session we are conducting on Monday, 2 June, 15:30-17:00 titled; '*Food Security for Families – Practical Solutions for Hunger and Nutrition Challenges.*' This is an interactive seminar brim full of practical ideas about self-sustainable food security and nutrition.
- The booth in the House of Friendship where you can meet like-minded people who want to make a difference; and
- The Annual Meeting, where further plans and progress will be shared. This will be held on Wednesday June 4 at 14:00-15:00.

Many of you have corresponded with us, and we encourage you to make personal contact at the Convention. I guarantee you will be even further excited by the potential of **Food Plant Solutions**.

At the Convention you will see hundreds of worth-while service activities covering a whole range of projects. I am confident that you will see how easy it can be to combine projects. Together, we can make a difference.

Engage Rotary - Change Lives!

John G. Thorne, Chairman, Food Plant Solutions, Rotarian Action Group

FPS comes to Isabel Schools

Kaye Dawson, Education Adviser, 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 growing all vegetables from root crops such as kumara, cassava and taro to the leafy greens which are necessary for health. Fruit and vegetables form the staple diet for families with small quantities of fish and chicken sometimes available for protein.

Using the materials provided by Food Plant Solution in the schools allows better understanding of the food benefits of each crop and letting the children identify and distinguish between crops through both excellent visual pictures and quality text. The young children learn to differentiate between and fruit and a vegetable. The Food Plant Solutions resource is multi leveled and can be used right through to early secondary level.



Isabel Health Clinics have been provided with copies of the books and posters for display and community reading throughout the province.

The Isabel Education Authority acknowledges and thanks Food Plant Solutions for the excellent resource for use in our schools.



Engagements:

Food Plant Solutions has the following engagements scheduled:

- D9520 Conference, Warrnambool, 20-23 March, 2014
- D9830 Conference, Devonport, 11-13 April, 2014
- RI Convention, Sydney, 1-4 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

Completed materials are available from our website.

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Contact Us: Email: info@foodplantsolutions.org

Website: www.foodplantsolutions.org

FPS in Kenya!

Jeremy Penner, Partners in Community Transformation and member of Rotary eClub One

Food Plant Solutions has partnered with a Kenyan organization 'Partners in Community Transformation', in developing a "Community Transformation Centre" (CTC).



The CTC will be a multi-acre "campus" in rural western Kenya, which will serve the surrounding 35 villages with a combined population of approximately 16,000 people.

With the concept generated by the community through a series of community collaborative meetings, what was missing was the technical expertise to identify which plants are both highly nutritious and well suited for the local conditions. This is where Food Plant Solutions is stepping in. FPS has engaged a volunteer Technical Support Specialist to develop a field guide for Kenya, which will be the basis for the plants used in demonstration plots and community education programs.

The CTC will be a demonstration / training site for food security, poverty reduction interventions and complementary health and education programs. It will model sustainability, promote health, raise the education level and literacy rates, and will promote leadership by the empowerment of women. Income from the demonstration project outputs will contribute to ongoing operational expenses.

Having a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan, the CTC will generate an evidence-based template for sustainable community empowerment that can be adapted and applied to other settings.

With 20 acres of land procured, site development occurring and the Food Plant Solutions Field Guide for Kenya being finalized, production is expected to start



within the year!

Please visit <http://www.transformation-kenya.org/> for further information.

Alliance with UTAS

Dr Richard Doyle, President of Rotary Club of Sandy Bay

We are delighted to report that Food Plant Solutions has signed a "Letter of Intent" (LOI) with the newly formed School of Land & 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 aid in applications for research funding and joint work with both research and undergraduate students. Professor Holger Meinke, the Head of the new School, has supported a working relationship with FPS and stated "The very high number of international students in the new and larger School (a merger of Agricultural Science and Geography) should help FPS achieve some of its objectives with national food guides and potential plant

nutritional analysis. It also brings agricultural, geographic, GIS and research and teaching skills to the FPS program."

Under the agreement Bruce French will continue as an Honorary Associate Lecturer with the SLaF. Dr David Parsons who runs a "Young Crawford Group" at the School is optimistic that the LOI will encourage students to become active in the program and this has already begun to occur.



Kiko's Coconuts

Viva Haiti

It was a sunny Thursday afternoon. Little Kiko was playing outside...

Yon Jedi apremidi anba yon soley byen cho, ti Kiko t'ap jwe deyò...

Kiko's Coconuts is the first in a series of children's storybooks written in English and Haitian Creole. Vibrant artwork by Haitian artist Jean-Denis Ganthier helps tell the story of little Kiko's adventures at his home in rural Haiti.

This fabulous first in the storybook series, written by Viva Haiti's founder Robyn Corbett, is designed to bring the joy of reading to children, parents and communities in Haiti. The series is also designed to put a taste of Haiti into the hands of children and families elsewhere - and is a fun way to raise awareness of and funds for projects developed by Viva Haiti.

The series is the platform for Viva Haiti's literacy project, which incorporates drama and music to bring the story alive for sometimes illiterate community members. *Kiko's Coconuts* introduces readers to this little boy's family and their world in rural Haiti. Subsequent stories will explore development projects addressing food security, micro-finance, even business training and development. School-children can enjoy learning new skills; their parents and communities can engage in the projects, utilise their existing skills and experiences, and contribute to their own community's development.



We believe this concept has significant potential as a model for extension of FPS principles through children to parents in other countries. We are delighted to be working with FPS to further explore this.

Be part of FPS in Sydney!

Buz Green, Executive Director, FPS

If you are coming to the International Convention in Sydney we would be delighted if you are able to participate in some of the activities we have planned. For its duration we will have a booth in the House of Friendship and would be very pleased to have you come and visit us. Better still, if you and/or your partner could make some time available to work on the booth with us you would not only get to learn more about FPS but also get to meet many other Rotarians that share a common interest. If you would like to help please contact Una Hobday (Coordinator) @ unahob@gmail.com