



Learn Grow Services Inc.

Annual Report

2015—2016

Providing support services to



**FOOD PLANT
SOLUTIONS
ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP**

Report prepared by

Una Hobday, Chair 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

Table of Contents:

INTRODUCTION	3
<i>FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS – Project Profile:</i>	<i>3</i>
Report from the Chair	4
Financial Reports	6
<i>Divisional Profit and Loss Statement</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Profit and Loss Statement</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Profit and Loss Appropriation Statement</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Balance Sheet</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Notes to the Financial Statements</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Auditor’s Report</i>	<i>12</i>
Profile of Management Committee Members.....	14

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 27,800 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 both Rotarians and Non-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 can include but is not limited to:

- 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 Chair

Now in its ninth year, the project with a new Chair – PDG Una Hobday, saw significant growth, with a strategic focus.

With the last point in mind, the committee developed Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) as a way of measuring our progress and aims. These were identified as:

1. Fundraising – aim to raise \$50,000 per year.
2. Aim to have 3 signed Letters of Intent with program partners.
3. Create 4 field guides per year.
4. Raise awareness about the program both within and outside Rotary.

An on-going challenge has been our inability to quantify outcomes. With that in mind, in August we developed Letters of Intent that are drafted individually for each program partner. Since their introduction there have been 14 Letters of Intent signed, and this has created true partnerships, with agreed responsibilities.

Our focus on creating new publications with new partners continued, with field guides created for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, and Northern Thailand, with the latter two also having been reviewed in-country.

In 2012 we undertook a pilot program with a partner in Vietnam, focussing on school gardens, which was well received and expanded to include two provinces. The outcomes to date have been extremely positive:

- The students at the schools enjoy the benefits of the plants they have grown as they are provided with a nutritious lunch each day.
- Families, seeing the benefits of the school gardens, are now duplicating them at home.
- The schools are saving money each month from not having to buy food, which means this money can be redirected to other necessities.
- There has been a significant increase in enrolments as parents feel more confident in the school's ability to provide nutritionally for their children, which in turns frees up the parents to increase their household income as they have more time to work.
- **Malnutrition has significantly reduced – one school has seen a reduction of 80%, another 95% - IN ONE YEAR** even with a significant increase in enrolments.

This program demonstrates the benefits of our approach and has raised significant interest from other major aid organisations and leaders in our field.

Following on from the outcomes in Vietnam, we received a Letter of Support from the Director General (Ann Tutwiler), of Bioversity International, the preeminent leader in our field. Based in Italy, they are the world's largest international research organization dedicated to conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. For them to acknowledge our work and support us is a huge coup. It reaffirms the significance and value of our work.

Our program partner in Indonesia – Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation - successfully applied for a Rotary Matching District Grant. With this money, 1000 copies of the Bahasa

version of “Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia” were printed. At the time of writing this report, over 800 of these guides had been distributed, with recipients including: Austrade, Salvation Army, YUM, British Women's Association Jakarta, ANZA and Rotary Club at Bali Taman.

In January, Bruce French received an Officer of the Order of Australia and Buz Green a Member of the Order of Australia. Bruce's was received for distinguished service to agricultural science through the provision of edible plant information for improved food security, nutrition, and improved health outcomes for people in developing countries. Buz's was for agriculture, horticultural sustainability and research, and to the community. Following directly from their work, Learn Grow, and then Food Plant Solutions, was born. Both awards, whilst completely separate were very well deserved.

A project in the Philippines is a good example of how our approach can be implemented in any environment. Near the end of 2013, an enormous typhoon hit the Philippines, destroying property and killing over 6000 people. Several Rotary groups joined forces to assist the rehabilitation of the district school – Paypay District School. As part of this process, a derelict kitchen garden was identified – this was not part of the agenda for rehabilitation. So as a bonus, information from Food Plant Solutions was shared, including the field guide written for the Philippines. The principal, science teacher, other teachers and parents have now adopted and understood the principles of shared kitchen gardens and their benefit to growing children. There was a hurdle – the grounds of the school were to become a rebuilding site with workers and trucks working on all the spare ground. The enterprising school community solved the problem with portable containers that they move from spot to spot as the buildings around them are rebuilt.

With funding remaining a constant issue, for the second year in a row the committee created a calendar to sell, with the aim of raising both awareness and funds. This proved to be a successful undertaking.

PDG Una Hobday attended Rotary International Convention in May / June, leading our activities. Una's engaging approach resulted in many contacts and enquiries, all of which were followed up.

Our challenges remain the same - funding and human resources. Our team of volunteers are critical to our success. Each one does an out-standing job and I take the opportunity to thank each of you, without you we would cease to exist.

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 2016			
	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Food Plant Solutions			
INCOME			
Donations Rotary Clubs		5,000	13,650
Donations general		2,600	467
Subscriptions		380	180
		<u>7,980</u>	<u>14,297</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Bank charges		44	1
Badges		-	370
Conference expenses		527	4,720
Courier fees		-	1,303
Filing fees		59	59
Postage		431	-
Printing and stationery		6,834	1,409
Translation service		43	-
Website		200	565
		<u>8,138</u>	<u>8,427</u>
		<u>(158)</u>	<u>5,870</u>
NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)		<u>(158)</u>	<u>5,870</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 59 735 779 072
DIVISIONAL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Learn Grow Services			
INCOME			
Donations Rotary Clubs		21,210	14,336
Donations General		5,657	2,000
T Shirts		-	50
Calendars		10,657	15,698
Interest received		1,310	1,555
		<u>38,834</u>	<u>33,639</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Bank charges		-	2
Conference expenses		-	2,043
Printing and stationery		2,144	3,068
Professional fees		-	(3,750)
Salary		28,948	20,061
Superannuation		2,752	1,906
		<u>33,844</u>	<u>23,330</u>
		4,990	10,309
NET OPERATING PROFIT		<u>4,990</u>	<u>10,309</u>

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Profit and Loss Statement

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Gross profit (loss) contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	(158)	5,870
Gross profit contribution from: Learn Grow Services	4,990	10,309
	<u>4,832</u>	<u>16,179</u>
NET OPERATING PROFIT	<u>4,832</u>	<u>16,179</u>

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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 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
NET OPERATING PROFIT		4,832	16,179
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		83,239	67,060
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION		88,071	83,239
Extraordinary items		(40)	-
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		88,111	83,239

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.
ABN 59 735 779 072

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bendigo Bank cheque account (430)		57,047	53,558
Bendigo Bank (Food Plant Solutions Acct)		29,620	29,975
Amounts receivable from other related entities	2	1,983	-
		<u>88,650</u>	<u>83,533</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>88,650</u>	<u>83,533</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
ATO liabilities	3	539	294
		<u>539</u>	<u>294</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>539</u>	<u>294</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>88,111</u>	<u>83,239</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		<u>88,111</u>	<u>83,239</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>88,111</u>	<u>83,239</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 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
2 Amounts receivable from other related entities:		
Current		
Rotary Club of Devonport North	<u>1,983</u>	<u>-</u>
3 Good and services tax:		
ATO Integrated client account	-	40
June BAS outstanding	<u>539</u>	<u>254</u>
	<u>539</u>	<u>294</u>

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

Auditor's Report



CAMERONS

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN GROW SERVICES INC

Scope

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Learn Grow Services Inc which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30th June 2016 and the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information, the committee members and assertion statement.

Responsibility for the financial report

The committee members of Learn Grow Services Inc are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Associations Incorporation Act 1964 for such internal control, determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report whether due to fraud or error. In making those assessment, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Associations preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by committee members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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AUDSOC OR 1887

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of Learn Grow Services Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the Learn Grow Services Inc financial position as at 30th June 2016 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Associations Incorporation Act 1964.

CAMERONS

GREGORY HARPER

Date: 16 November 2016
46 Cameron Street
Launceston Tasmania 7250

Profile of Management Committee Members

Una Hobday, Chair



Una trained as a nurse, working in a range of health associated positions including the Director of Nursing in two retirement villages in Tasmania and Western Australia. During this time Una gained a Graduate Diploma in Health Education and a Graduate Diploma in Professional Management. Una joined Rotary International in 1991 as charter President of a Rotary Club and has held many positions in Rotary International. In 1999/2000

Una was chosen as the first woman District Governor in Australia. In 2015 Una became the Chair of Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group.

John Phillips, 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. At the completion of the 13/14 year Kevin retired from Camerons. 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 almost 25 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 retired from the FPI Board in 2012, but continues as a volunteer with Food Plant Solutions, with a major input into publications editing and preparation, and developing guidelines to make it easier for other volunteers to contribute to the work of FPS.

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.

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.

Esley Dunham

Esley is a retired Real Estate Agent. He commenced his career in 1979 and was elected to the Board of REIT in 1983. His passion was to promote training into the industry and included in that was the establishment of Real Estate Scholarships which enabled young people to join the industry after completing grade 12. He was State President in 1992/3 and was the sixth member to be awarded Life Membership and is still the only North West Coast member receive this recognition. The majority of his Real Estate career was with Roberts Real Estate where he managed various offices from 1984. Esley joined the Rotary Club of Devonport North in 1995 and was Club President in 2013/14.