



Learn Grow Services Inc.

Annual Report

2018—2019

Providing support services to



**FOOD PLANT
SOLUTIONS
ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP**

Report prepared by

Una Hobday, Chair and Karalyn Hingston, Executive Officer

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

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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 40 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 31,250 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 to combat hunger, malnutrition and food security. A relationship was developed between the organisation behind the food plants database, Food Plants International, and Rotary to establish what became Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group, in June, 2007. In 2011 it was officially recognised by the board of Rotary International as a Rotarian Action Group and has gained a significant international profile.

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.
- Supporting FPS both financially and administratively as appropriate.

The prime objective of FPS is to provide educational materials and technical support to aid providers, whether they are Rotary, government, non-government or other international organisations. This can be done by:

- Creating educational materials that explain what nutritious food is, why human bodies need it and what local plants to grow and eat to meet nutritional requirements.
- Sharing 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 12th year, increased recognition by international agencies of the key role nutrition sensitive agriculture has to play in reducing hunger and malnutrition, saw demand for publications increase by 144%.

The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in their '2018 - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World', said "Access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food must be framed as a human right, with priority given to the most vulnerable. Policies must pay special attention to the food security and nutrition of children under five, school-age children, adolescent girls and women in order to halt the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition." This is what Food Plant Solutions does and has been doing since 2007.

The growth in demand was also as a direct result of the effort in raising greater awareness and understanding about the project. Committee members presented to numerous Rotary Clubs in Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland. A PowerPoint presentation was created with notes, enabling club presentations when a committee member was unavailable, which has greatly expanded our reach.

Our Chair, PDG Una Hobday OAM, worked tirelessly to seek support both within and outside Rotary. Una, with assistance from Kate Domeney, represented us at the Australian and New Zealand Rotary Conference, where all DG and DGE's received an FPS information folder. Due to Una's hard work, a donation of \$10,000 was made by the Rotary Club of Hobart, supported by District 9830. These funds allowed the creation of four picture guides for program partner – The Muravah Foundation in the Philippines.

Dr Russ Stephenson successfully applied for a Rotary Global Grant and immediately started his 'Alleviation of Malnutrition in Papua New Guinea' project. This is a long-term project involving social change - changing the diet of mothers, babies and small children. Villagers must be convinced, through education that their efforts will be worth the outcome of having strong, healthy children who will lead their community to a better life in the future. To date, 41 village workshops have been held, attended by 8,369 participants representing 2,030 families.



In the non-Rotary realm, relationships with existing partners continued to grow and deliver results, whilst many new relationships were formed. We signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Muravah Foundation, an organisation that we had been in communication with for many years. The Muravah Foundation has launched

the "Gulayan sa Barangay" (Vegetable Garden in the Community) program. 7 zones have been identified as suitable for a communal garden, with the Muravah Foundation providing seeds and other planting materials in accordance with the FPS publications. The

publications are also discussed in Family Development Sessions, which are conducted on a monthly basis. The Muravah Foundation has said “Barangay Sua is composed of 483 families in which 50% are considered by the government to be living below the poverty line and are beneficiaries of a cash & self-help program. It will be very helpful for the parents to know the nutritional value of the food that they serve with their families. Also it will be very beneficial to know the nutritional value of our indigenous vegetable/plants found in our area.”

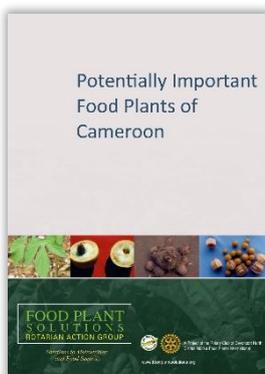


Our partnership with Teacher in a Box (TIB) saw increased FPS publications on the TIB server. Feedback from a school in Tanzania advised “one of the resources they have used, has helped with the success of their own vegetable farm that they have created to provide fresh food for the meals they provide their 200 students. He said they had used soil improvement, pest eradication and disease recognition and eradication information from the Food Plant Solutions site on Teacher in a Box”.

The Mustard Seed Institute continued to work closely with us, with FPS creating 4 picture guides. These publications are ideal for those with low levels of literacy and feedback from program partners is that communities love them. The Mustard Seed Institute works in a remote village in Eastern Province Rwanda and the community is predominately subsistence farmers, with food insecurity and malnutrition an ongoing problem. They assist their community through sharing the knowledge contained in the Food Plants Solutions publications and encouraging the planting and growing of a range of crops in the community. And, the children's literacy program participants benefit from having a better understanding of nutritional needs.



New program partner H4BF (Hope for a Better Future) is a Cameroon youth led non-governmental, apolitical and non-denominational organization formed in 2009. H4BF's mission is to create opportunities for growth and poverty reduction, so as to enhance sustainable development initiatives in the country. As part of the partnership, Food Plant Solutions created the field guide “Potentially Important Food Plants of Cameroon”. In response to receipt of the publication, H4BF replied “Thank you and the entire Food Plant Solutions team for the great work you have done. It is absolutely incredible.”





Another new program partner is N4ED (Nutrition for Education and Development), an Ethiopian nonprofit whose mission is to improve children's nutrition and ensure their full cognitive and physical development. N4ED and Food Plant Solutions are a perfect match, as both organisations' share the same

vision (focus in providing tools that tackle malnutrition, especially in the first 1000 days, in a preventive and sustainable manner). N4ED is planning urban gardening, as a pilot in one of its projects, to motivate caregivers to use at home, the ingredients they see in cooking demonstration classes. Food Plant Solutions has the technical skills in urban gardening that N4ED lacks to launch its new intervention. Food Plant Solutions has created a publication, which is in the process of being translated.

With 46% of children in Timor-Leste, under 5 stunted and 24% wasted, Food Plant Solutions was delighted to partner with ChildFund Timor-Leste to help prevent child malnutrition and strengthen food security in vulnerable communities. FPS created 4 handbooks, featuring photos and information on a range of local, high-nutrient foods, which will be used to help families identify healthy eating options for their children and establish kitchen gardens in homes and schools.



In 2012, Food Plant Solutions partnered with AOG World Relief Vietnam on a pilot program that involved the creation of school gardens in 2 schools. This has proven to be so successful it has expanded to 14 gardens across many different communes. Food Plant Solutions publications are incorporated into AOG Rural Development initiatives. These help address the needs many communities raise, particularly the need for year-round access to nutritious clean foods for their

children, and available at an affordable price. AOG has said "FPS is a useful program because it is purposed to empower children to harness local food plant resources, to feed themselves and their families in response to the emergency facing the developing world in terms of the rise of malnutrition amongst the human population, particularly children." The latest results for a 12 month period, across 8 schools, shows malnutrition having reduced by between 40%-100%.



One of our most successful programs for the past year has been the 'Fresh Foods for Families' workshops. These were designed to support migrants to learn how to grow, nurture, harvest and prepare nutritious fresh foods in this climate, where both the plants and the climate are new to them. However its usefulness goes beyond supporting newly arrived migrants. The workshop can be used in schools, in Community Centres, Men's Sheds, - it's for any group which wants to help others to learn how to grow and eat nutritious food. The second workshop was for the Ethiopian community. Such was the success of the first, a past participant, the leader of the Nepalese community, offered to run a session at this workshop, this was an unexpected and a wonderful multicultural outcome. Members of the Ethiopian community are also benefiting from growing their own fresh produce. Fresh Foods for Families was recognised as a finalist in the Community Achiever Awards.



2018 - 2019 has been another successful year for FPS. Our member base has grown, more people and organisations know about us and demand for our publications is at unprecedented levels. Our challenges remain the same – funding and human resources. Our team of volunteers are critical to our success. Each one chooses to use their own time to improve somebody else's life. They each do an outstanding job, and provide immeasurable support to our Executive Officer. 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
DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019	2018
FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS		
INCOME		
Donations Rotary Clubs	-	5,250
Donations RAWCS	8,280	3,216
Donations Rotary International	-	10,500
Subscriptions	-	36
Sponsorship – World Vision	14,891	6,603
Child Fund – Timor Leste	2,388	-
District Grant	3,000	-
	28,559	25,605
EXPENDITURE		
Accountancy Fees	211	-
Audit Fees	835	496
Bank Charges	-	50
Conference & Travel Expenses	2,060	5,534
Filing Fees	63	62
Freight	774	-
Petty Cash Expenses	1,314	1,172
Postage	167	881
Printing & Stationery	1,804	2,548
Translation Services	-	261
RTTT Program	-	182
School Garden Plants	-	107
Website	73	3,331
	7,301	14,414
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	21,258	11,191

Divisional Profit and Loss Statement

**LEARN GROW SERVICES INC
DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019	2018
LEARN GROW SERVICES		
INCOME		
Donations Rotary Clubs	27,359	3,996
Donations General	3,023	4,368
Interest Received	1,139	1,111
Book Sales	-	237
Fundraising – 10 th Anniversary Function	-	1,050
	31,521	10,762
EXPENDITURE		
Bank Fees	10	4
Salary	41,108	40,247
Superannuation	3,905	4,049
	45,023	44,297
NET OEPRATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-13,502	-33,535
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Learn Grow Services	-13,502	-33,535
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	21,258	11,191
NET OEPRATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	7,756	-22,344
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	81,874	104,218
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	89,630	81,874
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	89,630	81,874

Balance Sheet

**LEARN GROW SERVICES INC
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bendigo Cheque Account (430)	25,898	34,620
Bendigo Bank (Food Plant Solutions Account)	63,557	47,501
Bendigo Bank Account 131934937	1,983	1,983
TOTAL ASSETS	91,438	84,104
 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ATO Liabilities	1,447	1,976
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	361	254
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,808	2,230
 NET ASSETS	89,630	81,874
 EQUITY		
Retained Surplus	89,630	81,874
 TOTAL EQUITY	89,630	81,874

Auditor's Report

Learn Grow Services Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$

The financial statements cover Learn Grow Services Inc. as an individual entity. Learn Grow Services Inc. is a not for profit Association incorporated in TAS under the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 ('the Act').

The functional and presentation currency of Learn Grow Services Inc. is Australian dollars.

1. **Basis of Preparation**

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

**Learn Grow Services Inc.
Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of
Learn Grow Services Inc.**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Learn Grow Services Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (TAS) and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In Note 1, the committee also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

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 judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, 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 Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Learn Grow Services Inc.
Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of
Learn Grow Services Inc.**

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a. the financial report of Learn Grow Services Inc.
is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (TAS), including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position
as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and
the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (TAS)

- b. the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as
disclosed in Note 1.



FLEUR BOURKE FCPA
FUSION BUSINESS SERVICES
PO Box 160 Ulverstone TAS 7315

Dated this 22nd day of October 2019

Auditors Independence Declaration
Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To Members of Learn Grow Services Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2019, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in relation to the audit;
and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



FLEUR BOURKE FCPA
FUSION BUSINESS SERVICES
PO Box 160 Ulverstone TAS 7315

Dated this 22nd day of October 2019

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 Learn Grow Services Inc. and 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.

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



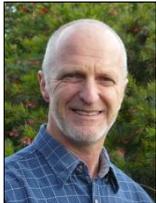
Karalyn Hingston has over 20 years' experience in the agricultural sector, with a wide range of skills and experience including; administration, quality systems, human resources, freight and production. Karalyn joined Food Plant Solutions in October 2012 and is the Executive Officer

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 in the early 1990's. He works with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. John's focus is controlled traffic farming systems and precision agriculture 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.

(LR) Buz Green AM (in recess since Feb 2014)



Buz Green is former Chairman of agribusiness Serve-Ag Pty Ltd, a company providing 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, the 2012 AusVeg Lifetime Service Award and the 2014 Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the horticultural industry. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016. Buz is a member of the Rotary Club of Devonport North.

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 within the industry including 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, 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 until his retirement in September 2006. He was retained as a consultant in a training role for the next four years. In 2010 he opened the first office on the North West Coast for the real estate firm, View, selling his interest in June 2015. Esley joined the Rotary Club of Devonport North in 1995 and was Club President in 2013/14. For the last three years he has been engaged in Rotary projects in Timor Leste.