



Learn Grow Services Inc.

## Annual Report

*2019—2020*

*Providing support services to*



FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP  
*Solutions to Malnutrition and Food Security*

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](http://www.foodplantsolutions.org) or email  
[info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org)

# Table of Contents:

**INTRODUCTION ..... 3**

*FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS – Project Profile: ..... 3*

**Report from the Chair ..... 4**

**Financial Reports..... 8**

*Divisional Profit and Loss Statement ..... 8*

*Divisional Profit and Loss Statement ..... 9*

*Balance Sheet ..... 10*

*Auditor’s Report..... 11*

**Profile of Management Committee Members ..... 17**

## 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 31,700 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

2019 – 2020 proved to be another challenging but successful year for Learn Grow Services Inc. Our profile in the aid world continued to grow, requests for our materials reached unprecedented levels and our team worked tirelessly to meet the demand. COVID-19 brought with it increased requests for our materials as the World Food Program advised that they expected the number of people facing acute food insecurity to increase by 130 million in 2020, as a result of the impact of COVID-19.

In response to this we started creating Brief Gardening Guides for regions. 15 plants are selected, 3 from each of the major food groups and information in the guide includes:

- Five key nutrients, why they are important and how your body uses them.
- How to start a garden.
- Details on each plant:
  - How to grow it.
  - How to use it.
  - What of the five key nutrients each plant has.



The guide allows anybody to start their own garden, whether it be in pots in an apartment, or turning over some lawn in a yard. The response to the Brief Garden Guides continues to exceed expectations and they have been created for regions all around the world.

Our program partner in the Philippines – The Muravah Foundation continued to work closely on their gardening and nutrition program. They advised “On behalf of Muravah Foundation, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the untiring support of Food Plants Solutions to provide knowledge and education on local food sources to poverty-stricken communities such as the Philippines. It is a great honour for Muravah to be partnering with an international organization such as FPS. The learning tools that you provided are very informative and beneficial to the members of our community. With these tools it will be easier for us as grassroots workers to design programs that will help us combat malnutrition and provide our people with ideas on how to sustain our food supply.”



The garden to the left was established in accordance with the FPS field guide and had 23 plant varieties. There were 12 families that benefited from this garden.



In Rwanda, our program partner advised “The Mustard Seed Institute is very happy to be working with Food Plants Solutions to improve the health and well-being of our community. We work in a remote village in Eastern Province Rwanda and our community is predominately subsistence farmers, with food insecurity and malnutrition an ongoing problem. We assist our 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. Our children's literacy program participants benefit from having a better understanding of nutritional needs. We thank the donors who made the publications.”

We've had this partnership since 2016 and during that time we have created a Field guide and four picture guides <https://foodplantsolutions.org/programs/rwanda/>. Some have been translated into the local language of Kinyarwanda and the others are in the process of being translated.

Dr Russ Stephenson's Global Grant to alleviate Malnutrition in PNG continued to make significant progress, which included several field visits.

Since the project began in late 2018 Dr Stephenson has visited 14 villages, for up to a week each, and run revision workshops. He has also inspected village home gardens, provided advice on how to improve the gardens and visited schools to teach all school students about the importance of good nutrition to their development and to their learning. Dr Stephenson has met with representatives from the National Department of Health, in Port Moresby, where he was advised that the project is 100% consistent with PNG nutrition policy.

The visits in the past twelve months primarily focused on encouraging villagers to adopt a better diet and reinforcing the awareness that children need essential nutrients to grow strong and healthy. A two day women's food preparation workshop for 'Healthier, Stronger, and Smarter Babies' was held at Mougulu and was attended by 61 participants from 23 different villages, exceeding expectations. Attendees became volunteer trainers to deliver their own workshops for village women in their communities.

A two day nutrition workshop was held in Suabi village, attended by over 50 families. From this a demonstration garden was created by the villagers. And, whilst in Suabi a workshop on nutritious foods for babies when they commence solids (at 6 months of age) was conducted.







In Tanzania the Machame Rotary Club serves the community on the south-western slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, and work closely with their partner, the Rotary Club of Kingston-Frontenac, who introduced them to our materials.

Food security is an issue for many in their community. Rotary member, Anitha Kwayu, has made her garden a living class-room for the community to experiment with new plants and

technology. She grows traditional crops such as maize, bananas, soya beans, and many green vegetables as well as experimenting with new plants and technologies such as pesticidal plants, and azolla farming.



Anitha is actively promoting the FPS guide, Potentially Important Food Plants of Tanzania, as well as the Brief Planting Guide prepared to help combat the impacts of COVID-19. Anitha hopes to plant several “forgotten” plants from the FPS guide including tamarillo, potato yam, squash, and taro.

Eliud Jacob recently joined Machame Rotary and had been working with Anitha when COVID-19 closed the secondary school where he taught science. He returned to his home village in Kagera region (north-western Tanzania) where he accessed the

FPS Brief Planting Guide prepared for the Lake Victoria region to share with the community. When schools re-open he hopes to return to work with Anitha and share their knowledge to build up the school gardens at the nearby primary and secondary schools.

They advised “Thank you Food Plant Solutions. Your sharing of plant knowledge is helping Machame fight poverty and starvation in Tanzania.”

Because of COVID-19 we (like everybody) had to adapt and this brought with it opportunities. Presentations to groups, club, etc. prior to COVID-19 only occurred in person, making it impossible for us to present to many because of their location. COVID-19 changed that, with video conferencing being the standard choice for meetings and that meant that we were able to attend and present at meetings all around the world.

Our representation at events was significantly reduced this year. Una Hobday, with support from Kate Domeney, attended Blooming Tasmania. An American FPS representative presented for us at the Rotary World Peace Conference and we were represented at the RI International Convention, which was virtual.

Significant effort went into establishing relationships with key organisations in Canberra. John McPhee and Karalyn Hingston presented to the Board of Soils for Life and received positive feedback and encouragement from their Chair – Major General Michael Jeffrey. John and Karalyn also met with Australia’s Foreign Minister – Hon. Marise Payne and this brought with it introductions to many contacts.

Buz and Karalyn met with Stewart Collis, Senior Program Officer, Digital Agriculture Solutions, Gates Foundation. Stewart recognised the importance of our work and undertook to keep us in mind and introduce us to various contacts.

Bioversity International created a comprehensive book on school gardens, in which we were included as a case study. This exposure brought with it many new contacts and potential opportunities.

The Fresh Foods for Families workshop continues to grow from strength to strength. The Sandy Bay Rotaract Club held a very successful workshop for their local Thai community. The positive feedback received from all workshops to date has equated to much interest and sees several more workshops in the planning phase.

Overall 2019 – 2020 has been another successful year. Our challenges remain the same – the need for more funding to satisfy demand for our materials and increased human resources to help service the demand. All committee members worked tirelessly to support this project and our Executive Officer. They are critical to our success and I thank each of them for their time and effort.



# Financial Reports

## Divisional Profit and Loss Statement

### LEARN GROW SERVICES INC DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
<b>FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations RAWCS	9,676	8,280
Donations Rotary International	-	-
Subscriptions	20	-
Sponsorship – World Vision	-	14,891
Child Fund – Timor Leste	6,216	2,388
District Grant	2,800	3,000
	<b>18,712</b>	<b>28,559</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accountancy Fees	425	211
Audit Fees	490	835
Bank Charges	53	-
Conference & Travel Expenses	1,942	2,060
Filing Fees	65	63
Freight	-	774
Petty Cash Expenses	-	1,314
Postage	383	167
Printing & Stationery	1,240	1,804
Stall Fee	396	-
Wage Allocation	10,756	-
Website	402	73
	<b>16,152</b>	<b>7,301</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>21,258</b>

## Divisional Profit and Loss Statement

### LEARN GROW SERVICES INC DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
<b>LEARN GROW SERVICES</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations Rotary Clubs	15,915	27,359
Donations General	1,825	3,023
Interest Received	481	1,139
Book Sales	21	-
Jobkeeper Payments	6,000	-
Wage Allocation – FPS	10,756	-
State Government Hardship Grant	2,500	-
	<b>37,498</b>	<b>31,521</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank Fees	22	10
Salary	39,292	41,108
Superannuation	3,733	3,905
	<b>43,047</b>	<b>45,023</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-5,549</b>	<b>-13,502</b>
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Learn Grow Services	-5,549	-13,502
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	2,560	21,258
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-2,989</b>	<b>7756</b>
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	89,630	81,874
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>86,641</b>	<b>89,630</b>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>86,641</b>	<b>89,630</b>

## Balance Sheet

**LEARN GROW SERVICES INC  
BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bendigo Cheque Account (430)	33,083	25,898
Bendigo Bank (Food Plant Solutions Account)	57,421	63,557
Bendigo Bank Account 131934937	-	1,983
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>90,504</b>	<b>91,438</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
ATO Liabilities	3,859	1,447
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	4	361
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>1,808</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>86,641</b>	<b>89,630</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Surplus	86,641	89,630
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>86,641</b>	<b>89,630</b>

## Profile of Management Committee Members

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### Una Hobday, Chair, OAM



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.

### 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.

### 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, AO**

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.

## 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. Since then he has been engaged in Rotary projects in Timor Leste.

## Kate Domeney



Kate Domeney grew up on an apple orchard in the south of Tasmania, Australia. Kate began her working life in the public sector and then later set up her own business, providing training programs, coaching, and mentoring to businesses large and small, within Tasmania and interstate. Kate is a graduate of the University of Tasmania, and a past president of the Rotary Club of Hobart. Kate is VERY enthusiastic about the workshop program, ***Fresh Foods for Families***.

## 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.