

# Learn Grow Services Inc.

# **Annual Report**

2020—2021

Providing support services to





#### 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

## 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

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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 basis to document information on the food plants of the world, which has resulted in the Food Plants International database. The database contains a variety of information on over 33,000 edible plants. Detail on each plant varies, some may only have the plant name, but others have a complete suite of information, including; where and how to grow, edible parts and how they can be used, nutritional information, and photos.

Rotarian Buz Green, of the Rotary Club of Devonport North in Tasmania (D9830), recognised the potential of the database to combat hunger, malnutrition and food security. And in June 2007, what was to become Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group, was formed.

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 aid 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.
- Networking and linking together like-minded organisations.

## **Report from the Chair**

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2020 – 2021 was another successful year for Learn Grow Services Inc. Our profile and reputation continued to grow, resulting in an unparalleled level of requests. All members took on additional responsibilities to increase capacity and, we had new team members join us on the project committee, in the technical team, for social media, administration and graphic design.

Food Sustainability, Multiculturalism, Community Bonding – that's our 'Fresh Foods for Families' workshops. One was held at the Campbell Street Primary School, in Hobart, which saw all children plant 'a seed for change'. The children took home a trough they had planted with seedlings, paper planting pots with seeds, tiny seedlings and a gardening calendar for Tasmania, showing what



to plant in what season. Not only did experienced gardeners report that they had learned, one parent said, '*This is the best workshop I have been to, and if we had more in Tasmania, we wouldn't be going without food*.' A subsequent workshop was held in Devonport with a multicultural focus, which was also very successful.



With collaboration commencing in 2019 with Hope for a Better Future (H4BF), in Cameroon, this year saw the field guide translated into Amharic and four picture guides created, (one of these has been translated and the remaining three will be translated). These materials are being used in their urban

gardening program, which reaches 200 underprivileged women.

Our long-term program partner in Vietnam, AOG World Relief Vietnam, had a particularly challenging year because of Covid-19 and resulting lockdowns. They advised that this

translated into unequal education and nutrition experiences for the children in their region, particularly for those with restricted access to internet connections, computers and the availability of food to nourish their bodies throughout the school day like they would typically get at school. Thankfully, although schools were closed, the many gardens established since partnering with Food Plant Solutions thrived and provided for the teachers, staff and students.



AOG advised "We were speaking to one of the principals of a

kindergarten where we had set up a garden less than 18 months ago, she reported the impact the simple garden had made for the 132 children enrolled. Since we first created the garden, it has grown steadily and provided ample produce for the students and staff. So much so that the school has been able to sell the excess produce in the area and used those funds to buy other nutritious ingredients to add to the school-day meal like eggs, fish and meat. Seeing the benefits of the garden including the improvement of the student's overall nutrition and well-being, the school has worked slowly to increase the size and variance of crops available. Even though schools have been closed sporadically due to

#### LEARN GROW SERVICES INC. ANNUAL REPORT

lockdown, staff have remained to tend the gardens and continue to use the produce to benefit the students and their wider community."

Padang Kawat in East Bali is a Food Garden Nursery and Gatsu Rice project. It was established in September 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic to improve access, variety and quality of fresh produce available to the local families. Pandang Kawat reached out to Food Plant Solutions and subsequently a partnership was formed.



Padang Kawat aims to preserve the land, promote self-sufficiency and food security. The food garden also introduces new food plants suitable for cultivation in dry climate of East Bali. This is important because it can significantly improve nutritional content of food consumed daily, prevent diseases and malnutrition in the area of Bali where predominant crops are rice, corn and sweet potato.



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Padang Kawat is using Flood Plant Solutions food guides for Indonesia, written in Bahasa, to learn about the nutritional value of multiple plants and to share that knowledge with the local community, farming families and eventually to share it with local schools and establish food gardens there.

Padang Kawat has advised: "At the moment we have already improved our variety of crops. Our goal is to provide sustainable, organically grown variety of fresh produce, expand knowledge and experience, share skills

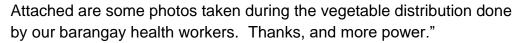
with others and be an example of environmentally responsible, future oriented, sustainable way of farming and gardening. We hope our practices will encourage young people and families living in the area of East Bali to hold on to their land, maintain it, and establish their own successful food growing gardens and businesses that will support their families in generations to come."



Our partnership with the Muravah Foundation in the Philippines continues to prosper. The following message was received from them during the year; "Thank you very much for continuous support of our backyard gardening program. Please extend also to Mr. Raffy Garcia our

warmest acceptance to his donation for the fulfillment of this project.

We have 35 households right now with a backyard garden. Muravah personnel are the ones who prepare the vegetable seedling and once ready for transplanting we distribute it to different households. Aside from household gardening, we also maintain a vegetable garden at the Muravah yard. Right now, we have distributed different kind of vegetables to 37 indigenous families of this barangay.





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During the year ECHO and FPS agreed, through a Letter of Intent, to expand their mutual efforts to promote each other's' resources aimed at solving the challenges of hunger and nutrition among the world's food insecure. In particular, ECHO will continue improvements to the integration and presentation of <u>FPS resources</u> on <u>ECHOcommunity.org</u> and the <u>ECHOcommunity mobile app</u>. ECHO will seek, especially, to create an environment making FPS resources more 'discoverable' on the integrating their use.

ECHO said "We at ECHO are excited about this partnership because the work of FPS compliments much of what we are about. Providing free information about useful plants and techniques to solve problems of world hunger and nutrition is at the heart of who we are."

Two inspiring individuals from Uganda have worked hard to improve their community's knowledge about nutrition and local food plants through their partnership with us. Together they translated the field guide 'Potentially Important Food Plants of Uganda' into Lhukonzo.

Kirere and Kalisya (translators) said the following upon receiving the re-formatted, translated publication.

"We are so thankful for this information, and I find the projects of Food Plant Solutions are of great importance to our people."

And: "Indeed Kasese is most affected area of malnutrition. Before I participated in translation, I was one of those affected but because of this guide, I have changed my way of eating."

A donation from the Rotary Club of Deloraine, plus a District Designated Funds Grant allowed Food Plant Solutions to create a Brief Guide for the Solomon Islands, and ship to our program partner Kastom Gaden Association over 3,000 hard copies.

Kastom Gaden Association have said "We had received the books and had continue distributing them to the Ministries, groups, institutions, organizations etc. Moses has distributed some to the Government ministries a week ago at Heritage Park at a workshop facilitated by FAO & Ministry of Agriculture. We at KGA are continuing distributing the books. Yesterday, one of our staff brought with her to Gizo in the western province of Solomon couple of copies to distribute them there. We keep



records of who receives & number of the books distributed. We have asked our staff to take copies of the book with them wherever they are travelling in various parts of the country. Next week we'll be having a workshop here at Kastomgaden with participants form Rural training centres and so we'll be sharing copies of the books for them to take them back to their respective schools in the 3 provinces, Malaita, Western and Guadalcanal."

In May, our very own Food Plant Solutions Committee member, Esley Dunham, with the support of his Rotary Club (Devonport North) held a fundraising evening for Food Plant Solutions. Titled 'Three Tenors Minus Two', the night featured an evening of fine food, incredible entertainment by the very talented Julian Dunham and a fundraising auction.

Local identities and business generously provided items for the auction. It was a fantastic evening and a great success. Earlier in the year PDG Martha Weaver from New York State held a virtual open garden as a fundraiser for FPS.

The year saw a rise in our profile through various media outlets including:

- Segment in the Landline program
- ABC Hobart radio interview
- Indira Naidoo ABC nightlife
- Mercury article

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- Article in Reconnect Rotary
- Article in Rotary DownUnder
- Article in The Wave magazine
- Article in The Rotarian
- Podcast interview with Anthea Fawcett

Additionally, over 40 presentations about FPS were made to various clubs and organisations.

AFSA – The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa continued discussions with FPS, which resulted in the Executive Officer co-writing a chapter in their yet to be released barefoot guide. We were accepted as members of Netzkraft Movement, a German based organisation with a global focus and members, for a 'better world.' And our EO met various organisations including Slow Food Movement and UniteLife, with discussions for collaboration continuing.

Various conferences were attended virtually, and we received support from Signography in Shepparton who donated two new banners to us, and made a third at cost price.

Our Technical Team was again our backbone, creating over 30 publications for the year (a new record). There were 4 Letters of Intent, 2 field guides translated, 1 field guide created, 4 picture guides and 24 brief guides created.

ltem	2012	2021
Publications	9	120+
Contacts	Approx. 3,000	10,000+
Facebook	86 followers	4,000
Twitter	0	200+ engagements every post
Countries	6	41
Letters of Intent	0	32

A review of the past 10 years was conducted and found:

As the above shows, we've achieved a lot in the last 10 years but there remains so much more work to be done. Our Executive Officer, with our volunteers, continues to grow the organisation; each and every one is valued, respected and appreciated. We are most grateful to each of them.

## **Financial Reports**

LEARN GROW

### **Divisional Profit and Loss Statement**

LEARN GROW SERVICES INC

DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS	2021	2020
INCOME		
Donations RAWCS	17,830	9,676
Subscriptions	20	20
Sponsorship – World Vision	-	-
Child Fund – Timor Leste	-	6,216
District Grant	-	2,800
Rotary International Grant	1,756	-
International Projects Funding	7,250	-
	26,856	18,712
EXPENDITURE		
Accountancy Fees	202	425
Advertising	215	-
Audit Fees	490	490
Bank Charges	54	53
Conference & Travel Expenses	-	1,942
Fresh Foods for Families Promotion Video	200	-
Filing Fees	65	65
Flowers	223	-
Petty Cash Expenses	1,207	-
Postage	1,058	383
Printing & Stationery	3,345	1,240
Stall Fee	-	396
Wage Allocation	12,444	10,756
Website	753	402
	20,256	16,152
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	6,600	2,560

## **Divisional Profit and Loss Statement**

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LEARN GROW SERVICES INC

#### DIVISIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020		
LEARN GROW SERVICES				
INCOME				
Donations Rotary Clubs	7,600	15,915		
Donations General	4,232	1,825		
Donations RAWCS	17,830	-		
Interest Received	82	481		
Book Sales	6,501	21		
Jobkeeper Payments	13,500	6,000		
Wage Allocation – FPS	12,444	10,756		
Cash Flow Boost 3 Tenors Fundraiser	20,000	-		
State Government Hardship Grant	6,954	2 500		
State Government hardship Grant	-	2,500		
	89,143	37,498		
EXPENDITURE				
Bank Fees	12	22		
Salary	45,457	39,292		
Superannuation	3,955	3,733		
	49,424	43,047		
NET OEPRATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	36,719	-5,549		
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Learn Grow Services	39,719	-5,549		
Gross surplus (deficit) contribution from: Food Plant Solutions	6,600	2,560		
NET OEPRATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	46,319	-2989		
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	86,641	89,630		
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	132,960	86,641		
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE				
END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	132,960	86,641		

## **Balance Sheet**

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#### LEARN GROW SERVICES INC.

#### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bendigo Cheque Account (430)	92,854	33,083
Bendigo Bank (Food Plant Solutions Account)	42,371	57,421
TOTAL ASSETS	135,225	90,504
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ATO Liabilities	2,023	3,859
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	242	4
	212	т
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,265	3,863
NET ASSETS	132,960	86,641
EQUITY		
Retained Surplus	132,960	86,641
TOTAL EQUITY	132,960	86,641
		,

### Auditor's Report

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#### Learn Grow Services Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2021

\$ \$ 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').

2021

2020

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.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

#### Learn Grow Services Inc. Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

- 1. Presents fairly the financial position of Learn Grow Services Inc. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Learn Grow Services Inc.
   will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

President: Una Hobday

Treasurer: Kevin Matthews

Dated 27-10-21

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

#### Report on the Financial Report

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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 2021, 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 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
    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 6th day of September 2021

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 2021, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

## **Profile of Management Committee Members**

#### Una Hobday, Chair, OAM



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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

#### John McPhee

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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 Northwest 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 Northwest 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**

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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.