



From the Chairman's Desk

Rotary greetings.

You are the key. We have a simple message - there are solutions to hunger and malnutrition and these are available world-wide at little cost. May I therefore ask you to take action on just three matters?

One: Please share with your club members at a regular meeting the ideas and main messages you get from this Newsletter.

Two: I am confident that you have friends in another Rotary club. Please contact at least one of them and ask that they become an advocate and ambassador for **Food Plant Solutions** in that club. This straight forward task for each of our members would double the impact **Food Plant Solutions** could have in the world. Give them background information and mention our web page www.foodplantsolutions.org

Three: Do you know of a Rotary project or activity that is currently being undertaken in another country where there are challenges of malnutrition or hunger? It may be with supply of water, a literacy activity at a school or a new building or even an involvement with a hospital. Please approach the leaders of that activity and ask them to seriously consider making their project a much better one for the local people by their practical engagement with **Food Plant Solutions - Rotarian Action Group**. Value adding a product is the way to go.

In each of the above requests, I would appreciate your action, and then let me know of the results by email with a copy to our office - info@foodplantsolutions.org

Thank you - Enjoy your Rotary.

PRID John Thorne, Chairman, Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group



Inner Wheel District A77 Supports US!

By Lesley Johnston, Secretary, Inner Wheel Clubs of Sunshine Coast

Inner Wheel is an International organization born from the loins of Rotary but independent from it. Each year in Inner Wheel District A77, the members have the opportunity to select a project to become the District International Project for that year. This year, 2013/14, from among many worthy nominations, our members chose Food Plant Solutions. To qualify for nomination as a District International project, the project should benefit a country other than Australia, and work done should take place outside Australia. This is clearly true in the case of Food Plant Solutions. The members also realize the benefit and safety of Rotary controlled programs, and value the opportunity to work in partnership with Rotary.



Food Plant Solutions has had, and will continue to have, such far reaching prospects as it continues to help people from malnourished communities in developing countries, assisting them to grow and to nurture plants that will grow freely in their native environment, which will provide valuable nutrients and healthy foods. Inner Wheel District A77 is pleased and privileged to support this wonderful program.

Donations are Tax Deductible!

Food Plant Solutions is registered for Deductible Gift Recipient status! To make a tax deductible donation (for Australian residents only) please go to:

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/Default.aspx?ProjectID=333&ReturnTo=3>

Every dollar donated can make a difference to a child's life.

Speaking Engagements:

What's coming up?

Food Plant Solutions continues to deliver presentations and showcase its work at a variety of forums, both nationally and internationally.

The following engagements are scheduled:

- Inaugural Rotary China Conference, Sichuan, 19-20 October, 2013
- International Assembly, San Diego, 12-18 January, 2014
- D9830 Conference, Devonport, 11-13 April, 2014
- RI Convention, Sydney, 1-4 June, 2014

Program Countries

Food Plant Solutions has either developed or is in the process of developing field guides, handbooks and posters for the following countries:

- Solomon Islands
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor Leste
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Western Pacific Islands
- North Korea
- China
- N.E. India
- Iran

Completed materials are on available from our website.



RI Convention – Lisbon June 2013

By Kath Downie, RC of Ulverstone



What an experience, my first Rotary International Convention! From the minute I arrived at the venue to organise the booth for Food Plant Solutions (FPS) until I left on the last day of the convention, I was in awe

of the global impact of Rotary and its projects.

Food Plant Solutions had a booth in the House of Friendship. Andrew McMahon and I, from Rotary Club of Ulverstone, were the manning stalwarts throughout the convention with great assistance provided by John and Eileen Gatt, Una Hobday, Frank and Carmel Rice and Phil Armstrong. Many thanks to each of them.

We attracted a steady stream of Rotarians and friends throughout the convention, and they showed great interest in FPS and its implementation. Many people registered their interest with us and if you are receiving our newsletter for the first time, then you may well be one of the many who visited our booth.

A Breakout Session, 'Fighting Hunger and Malnutrition', chaired by David Bobanick, was excellent. This project is also a RAG and David, realizing the importance of collaboration with like-minded projects included FPS in the session. Our presenter, Una Hobday inspired all who attended with her outstanding presentation.

It was quite apparent that Food Plant Solutions message was very well received, and I found many Rotarians and young Rotaractors extremely interested with it and its application. All augurs well for Food Plant Solutions.

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www.facebook.com/pages/learn-grow/130963816971400

After 'liking' us, please share us with your friends!

A Technical Support Specialist (TSS) Perspective

By Matt Baker, TSS for Sri Lanka

My interest into the world of Food Plant Solutions (FPS) was sparked after spending some time with a recipient of the Royce Abbey Scholarship studying in Tasmania with FPS and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. It didn't take long for me to realise that my skills and knowledge, as a botanist with a background in agricultural science, were implicitly aligned with those needed in the role of a FPS Technical Support Specialist (TSS). This was an opportunity that I simply couldn't let pass. Subsequent to this, FPS received enquiries from various Sri Lankans who wished to develop FPS in their country. Some correspondence with Buz Green followed and it was decided that writing a field guide of Potentially Important Food Plants of Sri Lanka would be a good fit for me. To begin with I read the manuals that were developed to

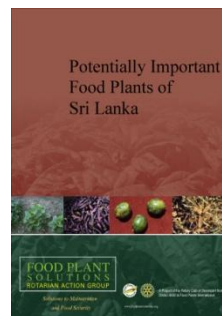


assist the TSS's. The manuals were absolutely fundamental in producing the guide and clearly spelt out each stage. In addition to this a pro-forma was provided, to complete. At first the task seemed a bit daunting and it felt a bit surreal picking plants for a country, culture and climate that I had very little experience of.

After using the database and sorting through the major food types, removing those with low nutrition, and negative characteristics, the job became easier and I had confidence in the plants I had chosen. Ultimately I had more candidates for the guide than was needed!

Technical and philosophical help was only ever an email or phone call away.

I am really pleased that I jumped aboard the FPS journey and was very proud to have had the opportunity to be involved in producing a document that will assist those in need to recognize and cultivate the plants that already grow with them.



Global Warming and Food Production

By Bruce French, Food Plants International

Global warming is getting a lot of attention. For people in island nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu it is already affecting food production. Giant taro (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*) is the staple food, grown in pits in the coral, and rising sea level is introducing salting into the pits.

But there is a bigger issue. Much of the scientific research on food plants has been and still is, being conducted on fairly familiar plants. Most of these have a distinct "Western" bias having been selected for temperate and Mediterranean climates. 40% of the people in the world live in tropical regions and the 81 countries with the highest levels of infant morbidity and mortality (disease and death!) are in the tropical zone. Many food plants in these regions are only known in local regions or have not yet been domesticated. This means there is a need for improved selection and production methods. Sometimes when people become aware of a new food plant they then give it appropriate attention.

One of my dreams is that the Food Plants International database will be a stimulus towards this end. One of our Australian indigenous foods, the Billy Goat plum (*Terminalia ferdinandiana*) has 100 times the Vitamin C of citrus, grows in the Tanami desert and has great potential and is now receiving research attention!



Contact Us:

Need to change your contact details, make a donation or have a query? Please contact us:

Email: info@foodplantsolutions.org

Website: www.foodplantsolutions.org