

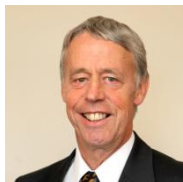
Learn Grow Newsletter



A project of the
Rotary Club of
Devonport North
District 9830 and
Food Plants
International

October, 2011

From the Chairman's desk



Welcome to our new look Learn Grow newsletter.

Following a successful program in Solomon Islands, a number of other developing countries are well advanced in engaging with Learn Grow. Several African countries are also undertaking investigations.

Recently, Learn Grow was one of the few groups to be granted a one-on-one audience with the Prime Minister of Australia during her visit to Tasmania. Through the Rotary network, Learn Grow continues to receive regular invitations to speak at District Conferences, international assemblies and conventions to showcase its work.

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated. And for those with skills and a desire to play a bigger role, your attention is directed to the call in this newsletter for volunteers to perform a variety of interesting tasks.

Effective communication is vital to the achievement of objectives under any project. And it needs to be two-way. We would encourage you, therefore, to talk to the team at Learn Grow about any aspect of the project, using the contact media in this newsletter. It is then that big things from little things will indeed start to grow!

Buz Green, Chairman

The power of one!



We can feel a sense of helplessness when we see haunting images on our television screens of starving people, the effects of devastating famines around the world. The task ahead can seem so immense and we may think that whatever contribution we are able to make is a mere drop in the bucket.

Enter Marion Jones, wife of District Governor, Graham Jones, from Rotary District 9640! There are 55 Clubs in this District, covering the south-east corner of Queensland and north-east corner of New South Wales. It is famous for its tourism, primary production, wines and sub-tropical weather.

Undaunted, Marion has been a powerful ambassador for Learn Grow, accompanying District Governor Graham in his visits to Clubs, explaining what Learn Grow is all about and inviting Rotarians to support Learn Grow financially. In just over three months, more than \$5,500 has been raised through Marion's initiative.

A highly commendable effort Marion. You have given new meaning to just what can be achieved through the power of one!

Our sincere thanks is also extended to each Club that has contributed. A great effort by everyone concerned.

Speaking engagements: what's coming up?

Learn Grow continues to deliver presentations and showcase its work at a variety of forums, both nationally and internationally.

The following engagements are scheduled over coming months:

- Rotary International Zone 7B & 8 Institute, Brisbane, Queensland, 25-27 November 2011.
- Rotary International Assembly, San Diego, California, 15-21 January 2012.
- Rotary District 9820 Conference, Ballarat, Victoria, 23-25 March 2012.
- Rotary District 9640 Conference, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, 13-15 April 2012.
- Rotary International Convention, Bangkok, Thailand, 4-9 May 2012.



Contact us

To communicate with Learn Grow, change your contact details or make a donation, you may contact us as follows:

Telephone: +61 3 6334 3990
Facsimile: +61 3 6334 0725

Email: info@learngrow.org

Postal address:

PO Box 1499
LAUNCESTON
TASMANIA AUSTRALIA 7250

Website: www.learngrow.org

What is the Learn Grow project all about?

We often are asked, “what exactly does Learn Grow do?”

The Chinese proverb, “give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,” may not have been coined for Learn Grow. But substitute food plants for fish and it sums up its mission.

And the need is urgent. This heartfelt email received recently from a Rotarian in Kenya so vividly describes the current crisis in East Africa:

“...it’s way past midnight, local time, but it’s hard to sleep, knowing I have a full tummy, yet my fellow citizens are malnourished. In the short term, they will get help. How about the long term? How can we avoid this desperate and appalling situation from recurring again? How can Learn Grow make a difference in our country?”

Learn Grow provides resources, information and technical support to food aid providers so they can help people in need to learn about and grow the best local plants to match their nutritional needs. It offers a solution which is truly sustainable.

Learn Grow is a project of Rotary District 9830. It utilises the global networks of Rotary International to realise the huge potential that this solution offers.

Volunteers wanted!

The continued development of Learn Grow is dependent on committed, enthusiastic volunteers with a wide skills set.

We are pleased to offer a range of fascinating opportunities to participate, in such areas as journalism, agronomy, botany, selling, project management, information technology and marketing support.

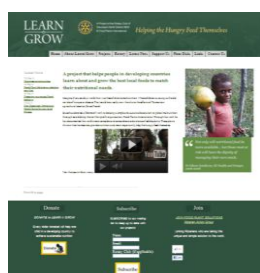
Details can be found on the website under “support us” and then “volunteers wanted”.

For more information or to apply, please email your details and what you would like to add to the project to info@learngrow.org.

Website gets makeover

Haven’t visited our website yet? Then we would invite you to go to www.learngrow.org to find out more about this inspiring project.

The website offers a wealth of information about Learn Grow. As the result of a recent



makeover, you will discover a new layout, the latest news items, new buttons, a new “food for thought” page and a listing of our valued supporters. A website is really a work-in-progress, so further enhancements will continue to be made.

Let us know what you think and what you would like to see. Feedback is always most welcome.

Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group ready for business

Learn Grow welcomes the decision by the Rotary International Board to recognise a



new Rotarian Action Group (RAG), or international area of emphasis. Named the Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group, it will support the development of Learn Grow. There are only 15 RAGs globally and this recognition provides Learn Grow with significant exposure on a worldwide platform.

The Food Plant Solutions RAG is currently working on further appointments to its Board of Directors from around the world, along with a number of specialist advisers.

It has also just launched a new website, www.foodplantsolutions.org. This is an interactive site where you can leave comments, share ideas and report on relevant activities. Make sure you visit soon and leave a footprint!

Royce Abbey scholarship recipient visits Tasmania

The first project undertaken by Learn Grow was in Solomon Islands. Over the last two years, the Learn Grow project team developed and continues to implement a successful program for the people of Solomon Islands in collaboration with ten locally based stakeholder organisations. They include government ministries, education providers, NGOs, women’s organisations, community groups, church missions and Rotary. A series of reference texts and field guides were published and are being distributed through stakeholders to communities and villages throughout the country.

As part of the program, Henry Gwao, a teacher from Solomon Islands School of Natural Resources, is currently visiting Tasmania for a program of study with the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR). This has been funded under a Royce Abbey scholarship (named after a former Australian Rotary International President) and includes mentoring by Bruce French, Honorary Associate of TIAR and author of the food plants database.

Henry will become a key ambassador for the project upon return to Solomon Islands.