



# Learn Grow Newsletter



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

December, 2011

## From the Chairman's desk



Welcome to the Christmas 2011 edition of the Learn Grow newsletter.

2011 has been an exciting year in the life of Learn Grow. We have achieved much, thanks to the dedication and commitment of our partners, supporters and contributors around the world. Early in the year, our sister entity, Food Plant Solutions, became one of a small number of Rotarian Action Groups endorsed by the Rotary International Board as an international area of emphasis. This recognition provides Learn Grow with significant exposure on a worldwide platform.

Presentations have been delivered at international symposiums, District Conferences, Rotary Clubs and other forums, both in Australia and overseas throughout the year, as well as the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans. We were also privileged to have a one-on-one meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia. We are continually heartened by the response from people who not only share the Learn Grow vision, but are willing to offer their knowledge, expertise, time and networks in pursuit of the goals that Learn Grow has set. To each of you, a sincere thank you on behalf of the Learn Grow team.

The pace will certainly not lessen in 2012, for there is still much to be done. We will be attending the Rotary International Convention in Bangkok and, in addition to hosting an information booth there, will be facilitating a breakout session. Details are included in this newsletter. We will be undertaking ongoing work to make the food plants database more user-friendly. And we will also be seeking further opportunities to link with international food aid providers to increase their awareness of the vast information available on food plants as they undertake their humanitarian work.

My sincere thanks is extended to all members of the Learn Grow team who give of their time and expertise to help make the world of tomorrow a better place.

And finally to you, our readers, we thank you for your feedback and encouragement and offer you our best wishes for the festive season and the year ahead.

**Buz Green, Chairman**

## Learn Grow and Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group to showcase their work at Rotary International Assembly

Each year, the International Assembly educates, motivates and inspires District Governors-Elect to lead Rotarians in their districts. Next year, it will be held in San Diego, California from 15-21 January 2012.

And Learn Grow and the Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group have accepted an invitation to showcase their work.

"We are very pleased to have a presence at next year's International Assembly", Chairman of Learn Grow, Buz Green, said. "It provides a great opportunity to share the Learn Grow vision and show District Governors-Elect from around the world how Clubs in their districts can become involved and indeed make a difference. Thanks to our supporters and friends overseas, we are able to man the joint booth with Food Plants Solutions Rotarian Action Group and make what is a major logistical exercise for us cost-effective. We extend our special thanks to those who are helping us to make it happen".

## 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 Assembly, San Diego, California, 15-21 January 2012.
- Rotary District 9820 Conference, Ballarat, Victoria, 23-25 March 2012.
- Rotary District 9640 Conference, Broadbeach, Queensland, 13-15 April 2012.
- Rotary International Convention, Bangkok, Thailand, 4-9 May 2012.
- Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group meeting and AGM, Bangkok, Thailand, 11.30 am, 5 May 2012.



## Contact us

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

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## Evergreen revolution gathers momentum



With the challenging title, *End Malnutrition Now: The Evergreen Revolution*, Learn Grow and Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group will be delivering a dynamic breakout session at the 2012 Rotary International Convention in Bangkok.

Chefs around the globe are discovering the “lost” food plants of the world and presenting them on television. Nutritionists are highlighting the food values of overlooked traditional food plants. Front line agriculturalists are again focussing on the less well-known food plants of the world to produce the “evergreen revolution.”

Moderated by PRID Dr John Thorne, Chairman of Food Plants Solutions Rotarian Action Group, the breakout session will feature Bruce French, agricultural scientist. He will present an overview of the comprehensive database of the world’s food plants that he has developed over a lifetime and demonstrate how this information can be used as a tool for elimination of malnutrition in an “evergreen revolution”.

Buz Green, agricultural scientist and Chairman of Learn Grow, will then present a framework for action. He will explain how Rotarians everywhere can be actively involved in delivering this solution to eliminate malnutrition in South-East Asia and the developing world.

Put the date in your diary now – Wednesday, 9 May 2012 from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm in room Sapphire 8 at the IMPACT Centre, subject to final confirmation. It’s an opportunity not to be missed!

### Looking for an activity with a difference for your next Rotary meeting?

One of the challenges for any Rotary club is to present a program week-in, week-out that is informative, inspirational and engaging for its members.

This is well appreciated by the team at Learn Grow. We are able to offer an activity that not only will please your Program Committee and your Director International Service, but satisfy the three goals described above as well.

The activity recommended is a *Food for Thought* (FFT) event. Its aim is to create awareness of, and support for, Learn Grow. The FFT event consists of a short video presentation, followed by a basic one-course meal. While the meal may not be typical, it is intended to be symbolic of a developing world meal. It is simple to prepare and detailed instructions are available on our website at “support us” and scrolling down to “FFT event”.

The event can be run as part of a normal breakfast, lunch or dinner club meeting. The meal should cost much less to provide than a normal meal. It is suggested that clubs charge the normal meal cost and donate the balance of funds from the meal to Learn Grow.

This is an opportunity for Rotarians and others not only to have an interesting and entertaining experience, but also gain an understanding of the Learn Grow project and how Rotarians and Rotary clubs can become involved. In this way, it offers “food for thought”. We would welcome feedback on your Club’s experience from conducting a FFT event and your ideas on how your Club would like to develop an ongoing involvement with Learn Grow.

See our website under the “Rotary” tab for comprehensive information on *Food for Thought*.

### Learn Grow Chairman wins HAL Graham Gregory Award

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) recently announced Learn Grow Chairman, Buz Green, as the winner of the Graham Gregory Award.

This award has been the Australian horticulture industry’s most prestigious accolade, recognising outstanding achievements from all sectors in horticulture. Buz is the Executive Chairman of Serve-Ag Pty Ltd, a leading provider of agronomic advice, technology and inputs to farmers. He has been a significant influence on Tasmania’s earned reputation as a reliable supplier of both processed and fresh market horticultural products over the past 35 years.

Buz has travelled extensively throughout the world’s agricultural areas. As a result of this experience, Buz chairs Learn Grow which provides information from the world’s largest database of over 24,000 edible plants to assist food aid providers in their humanitarian work in developing countries. Learn Grow is a project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North, Tasmania.

Buz has led a number of delegations to Rotary International conferences, including a field team to Solomon Islands to implement the adoption of the Learn Grow program.

Named for the late Graham Gregory AO, the first Chairman of the former Horticultural Research and Development Corporation, this award recognises Buz and his considerable achievements. His expertise will help Learn Grow continue to achieve its aim of helping the hungry around the world to feed themselves.

HAL Chairman Selwyn Snell congratulates award winner Buz Green - photo courtesy of HAL

