

The 24th Annual Report of Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Welcome to the 24th Annual General Meeting of The Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

In almost every respect the twelve months ending on 30 June 2015 broke previous Food For All records. The demand for emergency food aid continued at a record level. We packed a record 3033 food parcels, a record 516 Christmas hampers and toys for 602 children. Income and expenditure also established new records. Total income rose to \$115,182.30 and total expenditure rose slightly to \$79,174.48. While our treasurer Alan Hawkins will speak to you about the accounts I will point out that the apparent dramatic increase in income is due to \$27,000 having been received from donors specifically towards the purchase of a vehicle about which I will have more to say shortly. Disregarding the donations for the van we ended the year with a surplus of \$9007.82. Again disregarding the donations for the vehicle total donations were \$88,182.30 also a record.

The cost of food purchases from local supermarkets rose to \$42,338.27, up just over \$6000 on last year. However, by taking advantage of specials in the supermarkets we believe we have done as much as we can to minimise the cost of food. In this regard Diane Falconer, our secretary has done an absolutely outstanding job. The figures are quite extraordinary. The savings realised by carefully pursuing half price specials over the full year, discounts received through the generosity of our supermarkets and the savings by purchasing the Christmas hams from Foodbank Victoria amounted to a staggering \$18,600.00.

Although not relevant to the present report it is pleasing to see that food suitable for our food parcels is now starting to become available again from Foodbank Victoria. We have made two recent purchases at very little cost.

Following substantial cuts in Federal Government funding for the Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre (SPCS&IS) at Rosebud, late in the current year at the request of

SPCS&IS we have begun assisting them with food for their recently established food pantry. The food pantry is a new and innovative development and provides interesting insights into what people really want. It will be a partnering arrangement. We are presently providing 12 food parcels per week and see this as an ongoing and increasing commitment. In a full year we anticipate that support for SPCS&IC will cost us upwards of \$16,000.

Early in 2015 we became aware that while we were making substantial savings by buying larger quantities of food at or near half price there is a cost in the form of damage to the rear suspension of the vehicles of those of our members collecting the food and delivering it to All Saints' Hall. The management committee came to the view that the time had come for us to look to purchasing a van to both make it easier to handle large quantities of food and to reduce wear and tear on our members vehicles.

While it was our initial intention to purchase a second hand van we were advised by experts that it would be in our best interests in the long term to purchase a new van. With assistance from a number of donors both individuals and foundations most of whom wish to be anonymous and with cooperation and support from Volkswagen we have been able to raise \$42,000 to purchase a new Volkswagen Crafter van. The van is expected to arrive in Australia within the next three weeks.

Although outside the period under review I flag that in the coming year we will need to find not only a home for the van but also a new home for Food for All. The increasing quantity of food which we are holding and the changed circumstances which have come about from the departure of Anglicare from the All Saints' site and the reletting of the premises to a commercial lessee makes it increasingly difficult to continue to operate from All Saints Hall. I believe that in the 2015/2016 financial year we will need to move our weekly pack to another location. I hope that we will continue to have our Annual General Meeting in this our original home.

While I acknowledge the magnificent support we have received in connection with the "van project" my special mention this year must go to the pupils in form six at The Peninsula School. Early this year the children in year six were required to research charities on the southern

peninsula, decide upon their favourite charity, decide what they might make to raise the money for their charity and sell the items that they made at a school market day. Food For All was one of the three charities chosen to share in the money raised by the students. On 14 July this year Diane Falconer and I attended a school assembly at which a cheque for \$3266 was presented to Food For All. These young students raised just on \$10,000 at their market day. Apart from being intensely proud that they chose Food For All as one of the three charities deserving their support I am filled with admiration for the research, ingenuity and determination of these young people. Thanks also to the staff at The Peninsula School.

The Kick in a Can campaign which is continuing is and has been very well supported by the schools on the Southern Peninsula again this year. We are most grateful to the principals, staff and families of the participating schools who again have donated several thousand cans of food.

Time and space enable me to mention only a few of the 202 persons, op shops, service clubs, churches , businesses and schools who made donations of money, food , garments and toys to Food For All in the year under review. One must not forget the five local supermarkets who permit us to have bins on their premises and the hundreds of persons who make anonymous donations to us through those bins during the year. As in previous years a list of major donors is attached to this report. This year I do single out for their ongoing support Southern Peninsula Community Fund, the local foundation which prefers to assist anonymously, the Council staff at the Mornington Shire Council, The Uniting Church of Australia and the St Georges Women's Guild Red Hill.

Our Bunnings sausage sizzle on October 2014 gave us a net profit of \$1980 up by \$400 on the previous year. This was our highest ever net profit but was only so because of \$500 worth of wooden toys made by Doug Pretty and sold by him at the sizzle on the day. All of the proceeds from our sausage sizzle were allocated for the purchase of toys for the Christmas Appeal. Thank you Doug and our team of volunteers.

For the first time in several years the Peninsula Toy Run was marred by rain. However, this did not stop approximately 250 bikes from taking

part. Although numbers were well down on previous years bikers donated \$4000 in cash together with food and toys to the value of approximately \$4000. This was a great effort in trying circumstances.

For our Winter Appeal this year, as well as blankets, we also requested Frances Henke and the Mornington Peninsula Knitters to concentrate more upon scarves, gloves, garments and beanies. They have done us proud. At the same time we received from all sources a total of 281 blankets. Again the Bendigo bank, especially at Dromana, helped with the collection of the goods. Our thanks to all involved.

In my last report I mentioned that Marion Falconer was not well and I expressed the hope that she would return to us before long. Sadly Marion passed away on 27 October 2014. A recent bereavement is Sean Kennedy. Until they left the district in the last couple of years Shaun and his wife Audrey rarely missed a week at our Thursday pack. Sean retained his Irish accent and had an impish sense of humour and was always great fun. Judy Grant who has worked tirelessly with us for a number of years departed to spend more time with other charities. We thank Judy and her husband Doug for their work for Food For All. We welcomed six new members during the year. These were Margaret Davis, Eddie Cuff, Michael Murphy, Paul Anderson, Kevin Brett and Barry Stephenson.

Work on revamping our website began towards the end of the current year and a site with new photographs, which is generally more colourful and which is more user friendly recently replaced our original site. I invite you all to have a look at it at www.foodforall.com.au. Thanks to Rachel Rowe and Patriot Computers of Rosebud for their assistance with the upgrade.

Finally my sincere appreciation for the contribution made throughout the year by our committee members and all our volunteers. The second half of the year, in particular, has been a busy and exciting one for our team. Also sincere thanks to our local community for their continuing support for "Food for All". It is clear that we are going to need the support of everyone even more in the year ahead.

Ken Northwood

President
15 October 2015