

## **The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.**

**1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016**

Welcome to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

The twelve months ending 30 June 2016 has probably been the most exciting time in our history. As I delivered our last report we were awaiting delivery of our Volkswagen Crafter Van. The first major tasks for the van were to assist with the 2015 Toy Run and our Christmas hamper program. As we have begun purchasing larger quantities of food and delivering food parcels it has become invaluable.

In our last report I mentioned that because of our expansion as a result of the increasing demand for emergency food aid we were looking to find new premises. In November of last year with the support of both Fr Bart San at our Lady of Fatima church at Rosebud and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne we were given approval to build what amounts to a large double garage in the Fatima grounds. Work finished in January 2016 and we moved into our own premises in February of this year. It took a relatively short time (aided by some excellent suggestions by our volunteers) to make the most efficient use of the space available.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank our treasurer Alan Hawkins for his enthusiasm, effort and advice in all aspects of this major project. I also thank all the members of our management committee and our volunteers for their keen interest, suggestions and accumulated wisdom in connection with all aspects of our operations but particularly our development projects over the last twelve months. Especially our management committee for “keeping their nerve” as we appeared to be heading at times into uncharted financial waters.

I should point out that because of our boast over the years that funds donated to Food For All by members of our community are used to buy food we treated both the van project and the “Distribution Centre” as special appeals. The total cost of both projects was \$75,406.82 and I am pleased to be able to report that all but \$1117.80 was provided by donations from individuals or organisations in our community.

As with previous years our treasurer Alan Hawkins will speak to the accounts in more detail but I will just note that in summary and our special projects aside, total income from all sources was \$108, 280.06 and total expenditure \$105,440.19. Thus we ended with a modest operating surplus of \$2,839.87.

The total cost of food purchases from supermarkets for the year rose to \$60,663.26 – up a “whopping” \$18,325 on the previous year. A significant part of this increase can be attributed to our moving to buy and store larger quantities of food. Thanks again to the astute recommendations and purchasing of Diane Falconer, the cooperation of local supermarkets and our greater storage capacity the savings by way of “half price sales” and discounts in the financial year under review rose to \$31,274.

Of the \$1,117 .80 paid out from our general account to which I referred earlier \$495 was spent on the “FRJOHN” personalised plates for our van. The suggestion that we recognise the support for Food For All from the late Fr John Hannah from Sorrento came from some of our benefactors and we wholeheartedly agreed that the number plates were a fitting, albeit modest, memorial for a much admired member of our community.

I mentioned the funding for the van last year but with respect to our “distribution centre” two donations totalling \$11,500 came from private citizens and the balance of \$20,230 came from the proceeds of the 2016 Mornington Shire Mayoral Golf Day. We will be forever grateful to our Mayor Councillor Graham Pittock for making Food For All the sole recipient of the 2016 Mayoral Charity Golf Day.

As to our core business of providing emergency food aid in the twelve months ending on 30 June 2016 we packed a record 3485 food parcels. The boost in the numbers this year was primarily because of a modest increase in assistance to the Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre pantry service and the beginning of the supply of food to the St Vincent de Paul conference in Mornington. In our Christmas Giving program we packed 510 hampers and toys for 564 children. One hundred and ten hampers were donated to Westernport to help families on that side of the peninsula.

Another major development during the year under review was our making formal the partnering arrangement we have had for some time with the St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria for the supply of our food parcels. We have now come to an arrangement whereby we invoice each of the participating conferences monthly for the parcels they require. The overall effect of this is that the Society receives the food parcels at approximately 40 % of their retail value and we have a steady inflow of funds to assist with the purchases of food required above and beyond the donations of food we require. This is enabling us to increase the number of units of food we buy while still taking advantage of half price sales. A similar arrangement to that described above is being put in place with the Southern Peninsula Community

Support and Information Centre in Rosebud. We are delighted to be able to continue to assist with their growing pantry service to their clients.

I should also mention that in late June 2016 we began supplying on a trial basis the St Vincent de Paul conference in Mornington with food parcels. That trial concluded on 30 September 2016 and has been most successful. We expect that the supply of food to Mornington will now become permanent.

The 2015 Peninsula Toy Run was a great success. With fine weather just over 500 bikers took part and donations from the bikers totalled \$5740 of which our share was \$2938.95. Generously, the bikers brought with them a large quantity of food and toys. Filmed highlights of the Toy Run can be seen on our website.

In the lead up to Christmas 2015 we received wonderful support in the provision of toys to accompany our hampers from several sources.

The Antique Aeroplane Association of Australia in conjunction with Peninsula Aero Club conducted a Toy Run at Tyabb Airport in late November 2015 and generously made Food For All the recipient of the toys which they collected from visitors to the airfield. We received good quality toys valued at no less than \$2500 from this initiative. Sincere thanks to both those organisations.

At the same time, and for the first time, we shared with two other charities toys made during the year by the Southern Peninsula Woodworkers Association. These toys especially for smaller children were beautifully made and greatly appreciated. We also received a large quantity of toys from the Catholic schools in Sorrento. The ladies at Curves in Rosebud also kindly donated a large quantity of toys while Doug Pretty again made and sold toys at our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.

While mentioning support for the Christmas Giving program I should also thank nine teachers from the Peninsula School who as part of their "Hands for the Community" day in 2015 spent a day with us during the Christmas pack. We were most grateful for their help and we hope to see them again this year.

In the past few years our 2015 Christmas Appeal has passed the targets we have set but only because of the estimated value which we have placed upon donations of food and toys which we received during the time the appeal was running. In 2015 the actual cash we received was \$44,516.10 while the amount attributed to toys and food was \$25,509.70. This was a wonderful result and we were able to pay for our hampers from the cash we received and had some money left over to fund our week to week food purchases early in the new year.

As we have continued to grow including food and toys in the total appeal figure tends to give the impression that we have substantially more funds available for our operations than is the case. It could seriously damage our ability to help those struggling in our community if it was felt that we were flush with funds and did not need assistance. Accordingly, we have decided that commencing in 2016 we will separate donations of cash from donations of food and toys and only publish in our reports to the press the actual cash received. We will provide estimates of all donations in our annual report.

Our “Kick in a Can”, our Bunnings sausage sizzle and our winter appeal were all quite successful although it was disappointing that fewer than 50% of the local schools participated in the “Kick in a Can” Campaign this year. While we received not less than two thousand cans of food during the campaign the overall result was disappointing. Many thanks to Waterfall Gully Pre-School, Red Hill Consolidated, Eastbourne Primary, Peninsula Specialist College, Hastings Primary and Our Lady of Fatima School Rosebud for their continued help. It is perhaps time that we reviewed the way we invite schools to assist us.

During the year we continued to improve our website and added a couple of video clips from our 2015 Toy Run and Christmas program. Donations can now be made online.

Anxious not to let this report become too long this year I will simply express our most sincere thanks to everyone in the local community who have provided assistance to us during the last twelve months. If you are interested a list of major donors is attached to this report. However, I must mention the Southern Peninsula Community Fund, and the local foundation (which prefers to assist anonymously). Without the wonderful support from those two supporters it would be difficult for us to provide hampers at Christmas.

We have been greatly blessed with new tools with which to assist our community in the last twelve months. Perhaps the next twelve months is a time for reflection and consolidation as we consider how we can most effectively assist those less fortunate than ourselves on the southern peninsula.

Ken Northwood  
President  
20 October 2016