

The 26th Annual Report of Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Welcome to the 26th Annual General Meeting of The Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

At the outset this year I wish to acknowledge the passing of Cyril Mahon, one of our founding members. Cyril was actively involved in our day- to- day operations for at least 25 years and kept an interest in “Food For All” right up to the time of his death on 19th of June this year. This will be the first year that Cyril has not been present at our Annual General Meeting. It was not just through “Food For All” that Cyril made a great contribution to disadvantaged members of our community. He was a member of The St Vincent de Paul Society in Rosebud from the late 1980’s and President of the Rosebud Conference on more than one occasion. Cyril was also one of the founders of Vinnies Kitchen.

The year under review has substantially been a year of consolidation. With the benefit of our Distribution Centre and our van we have endeavoured to streamline our procedures and to be an even more cost effective and efficient organisation.

Our experience last Christmas led us to the view that the space in our Distribution Centre was not quite sufficient to enable us to run both our Christmas Giving program and our weekly food pack. To ease the congestion, we decided to construct a modest 4 metre extension to our Centre. As the 2017 financial year ended the finishing touches were being completed. The extension will be a great help to us later this year and in future years to store our Christmas food and hamper boxes and store the larger quantities of food we require both for Christmas and during the year without interfering with our day- to-day operations.

As has been the case in recent years, the demand for our food parcels has continued to increase and packing 4008 food parcels was a new record. It will not be a surprise that the cost of supplying our food parcels also increased. The total cost of food purchases for our weekly pack from supermarkets for the year rose to \$64,288 up a further \$3,625.00 on the previous year. Some of this increase can be attributed to our purchasing and storing 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 (including purchases for Christmas hampers) rose to \$32,000.

In our Christmas Giving program we packed 522 hampers and toys for 572 children. One hundred and ten hampers were donated to Westernport to help families on that side of the peninsula. Our 2016 Christmas Appeal brought cash donations of \$40,197. The amount received for food and toys as a direct result of our appeal is estimated to be \$13,139. Not the most successful of our appeals but still a very pleasing result.

I spoke last year of the partnering arrangement we have reached with the St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria. This has worked extremely well for both organisations. It enables us to streamline our food purchases and even better enables us to take advantage of supermarket

half price specials. For the St Vincent de Paul Society the cost to them is about 35% of the fair retail value of the food parcels which are already packed for distribution. I think it is fair to say that without this arrangement we would not be able to meet all of the demands that are now being made of us. We have a similar arrangement with the Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre.

All of our traditional fund-raising activities have been successful except that we did not participate in the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle program in 2016. The Peninsula Toy Run continues to grow as an activity and with fine weather just over 500 Bikers took part last December. Cash donations from those participating totalled \$4700 and together with another very generous donation of \$2500 from the Mornington Peninsula Shire staff, the amount raised for "Food For All", after expenses, was \$4275.33. The Bikers, as always, were very generous and brought with them a large amount of food and toys. Filmed highlights of the Toy Run can be seen on our website.

The "Kick in a Can" campaign is a valuable contribution to our weekly food pack. It was very successful in the year under review with several thousand cans of food being provided by eight schools. I believe it is time that we again acknowledged individually the efforts of the staff, families and pupils of the schools who helped us last year. Our sincere thanks to Balcombe Grammar School, Eastbourne Primary School, Hastings Primary School, Our lady of Fatima School Rosebud, Peninsula Specialist College, Red Hill Consolidated School, St Joseph's Primary School Sorrento and Waterfall Gully Pre-School.

This year, although technically beyond the scope of this report, I particularly want to acknowledge and thank the pupils in Class Eleven at the Peninsula Specialist College who volunteered to collect food for us this year (2017). Notwithstanding that the pupils at the college have special needs Class Eleven was able to obtain a gift of food from virtually every child or family attending the college. I met each of the children when we called to collect the food and I was greatly moved by their efforts and their genuine delight and excitement at having been able to help other members of the community who need a hand up from time to time. Thanks also to staff members Angela Andriessen, Jodie Shanahan & Rhiannon Polka for their support to the pupils in their endeavours.

Again for last Christmas, The Antique Aeroplane Association of Australia in conjunction with Peninsula Aero Club and those attending the air show provided us with several thousand dollars' worth of quality toys. Sincere thanks to both those organisations for their ongoing support. We also received a wonderful selection of wooden toys from the Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula who further helped us by crafting the toys to our needs. Well done woodworkers! I also wish to thank the staff at Target Australia who participated in our Christmas Appeal for the first time last Christmas and provided us with a great assortment of toys, gifts and food. Special appeals for toys were also made for us by Ray White Real Estate at Rye, Curves of Rosebud, the Blairgowrie Pharmacy, St Mary's Star of the Sea at Sorrento, St John's Anglican Church, Flinders and Penbank School at Moorooduc. The abovementioned donors together with several private citizens all contributed to what was clearly a record quantity of donated toys. Because of the toy donations for last Christmas we only had to spend \$3,881 of our own money on toys. A great help to us.

Over recent years I and others have attended weekly at the local Cochrane family farm to collect fresh vegetables to be distributed with the home visits made the next day. When preparing this report a remark by my wife regarding the cost of vegetables and a “back of an envelope” calculation revealed the fact that each week we receive not less than several hundred dollars’ worth of fresh vegetables. Over recent years this represents thousands of dollars each year in donations to “Food For All” and also provides those we are able to assist with the best quality fresh food. Our sincere thanks to all members of the Cochrane family for their wonderful and continuing generosity.

I wish to thank our management committee and all our members who have assisted throughout the year in various capacities. It seems to have been quite a severe winter this year, yet each week not less than 20 volunteers have attended to help with our Thursday pack.

Diane Falconer has continued to do the work of three people and, apart from his work as treasurer, Alan Hawkins spent a great deal of time organising the extension to the Distribution Centre. Thanks to Sue Abbott not only for her work organising and driving “Toyland” but also acting as minute secretary. I also take the opportunity to thank all the supporters who helped us in December with our Christmas pack including ,again last year, teachers from the Peninsula School.

We have welcomed several new members this year with only a couple retiring. I use the term “couple” deliberately because the marriage of Eddie Cuff and Marguerite Brennan is the first romance we have had in “Food For All” in at least the last 10 years. Both Eddie and Marguerite regularly assisted at our Thursday pack for many years. With great affection we thank them both for their years of support and extend our very best wishes to them in their life together.

In the past year we have received donations of various kinds from not less than 207 donors. We thank everyone most sincerely for their generosity, their interest and support for “Food For All”. As I have done for a number of years, I must acknowledge the continuing support of the Southern Peninsula Community Fund, and the local foundation (which prefers to assist anonymously). Those two organisations together account for about 35% of “Food For All’s” total annual donations. I cannot imagine our Christmas program without their continuing support.

Ken Northwood
President
11 October 2017