

The 30th Annual Report of The Southern Peninsula Food for All Inc.

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Welcome to our 30th Annual General Meeting.

What an extraordinary year it has continued to be! None of us could have imagined when we attended last year's ZOOM Annual General Meeting that we would still be facing the uncertainties of the COVID Pandemic. Nor could we have imagined that today we are still in the worst worldwide economic crisis in just on 100 years. I do hope that come the next AGM things will have improved in Australia with the vaccine roll out.

Members of the local community have been amazing in their generosity throughout the year and we have not had any concerns about funds to purchase food items. Food has been readily available. **Food For All** has worked closely with Jeremy Maxwell CEO and Karen Tatman at Southern Peninsula Community Support (SPCS) to provide emergency food for the whole of the year. We assisted with donations of food and sourcing food while SPCS used its staff and volunteers to deliver food parcels for the Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences, most of whose members were in the age danger zone for contracting COVID -19. Since commencing food delivery in 2021 the process has reverted to the original system of food delivery. However, with Jobsearch and Jobkeeper still in operation there was not a large demand for emergency food in the early part of the year. As restrictions eased and with the phasing out of Jobkeeper and Jobsearch in March, Food For All has experienced an unprecedented demand for emergency food aid.

As the pandemic was brought under "control" the availability of food from the Supermarkets improved. Our local State member Chris Brayne took a genuine interest in our plight and his office was quite helpful. I should add that IGA in Dromana and Coles at McCrae have been consistently helpful, and I am able to report that throughout the current crisis we have been able to meet all requests for assistance. The "tsunami" that we expected has not been forthcoming but growth in requests has grown significantly since March 2021.

We packed and distributed at least 3300 emergency food parcels in the year under review. This is a drop of approximately 22% on recent years and almost certainly reflects the substantial assistance provided by the Commonwealth Government through the Jobkeeper and Jobsearch programs. A precise figure cannot be given this year because, with the stage four lockdown, we were required to move to teams of no more than four or five for our regular food pack and there were just a few occasions when the number of parcels packed were not recorded.

2020 Christmas Giving program:

Total number given out including both singles and families = 326

Made up - Anglicare 9; Sorrento 12; Rosebud 54; Rye 59; Dromana 35; SPCS 157 = 326

Toys given to children = 431

Made up Boys 230 and Girls 201

Gifts given to 139 single Mums and 14 single Dads

Extra bags of toiletries etc. given to large families = 35

2020 saw a considerable decrease in assistance given as in 2019 Food For All helped 481 families at Christmas, including toys for 490 children

Last Christmas COVID restrictions required Food For All to change the way the program was delivered. Instead of the large Christmas Hampers plus toys, a smaller bag with a few 'goodies' including Christmas Cake donated by Rye Lions, some sweets, a card and food vouchers were given to individuals, couples and families. Toys were also given out (see pervious numbers) and the Toy Team did an amazing job organising and packing the toys. From feedback, we understand that the recipients were delighted with our decision to give vouchers as it enabled them to buy food of their own choice.

The Tyabb air show was able to operate and the Bickers Toy Run was a much smaller affair. They came to Frankston and toys were collected by Ken Northwood and Alan Hawkins. We spent \$11,995.15 on toys which was raised though the Christmas Appeal supported by the Southern Peninsula News.

It was necessary for Food For All to do this as the effect of COVID on the timelines for the collection, packing and distribution of toys and Christmas gift bags did not coincide with the collection of toys from our usual sources. The Christmas committee was learning 'on the run' with all the changes to restrictions etc. This will be rectified for the 2021 Christmas program.

Many thanks to Sue Abbott, Diane Falconer and Alan Hawkins for their organisation and coordination during this 'special' Christmas period. Also to our wonderful 'Toy Team' organisers; Donna De Sair and Kay Ross along with the assistance of Margaret Davis, Carmel McDougall, Anne Tardif, Ann Steel, Dawn Edwards, Ashlee and Jane McIntosh and Denise Connell.

It is impossible to say what this year's Christmas Program will look like. We can plan, and will be doing so, but any increase in COVID 19 infection, or a lockdown issued by the government will affect the planning. Whatever the difficulties Food For All will be providing support to families needing assistance this Christmas as we have done for many years.

Food For All financial position continued to improve during 2020 - 2021. There is no doubt that this was substantially due to the incredible gift of a local person who donated \$100,000 following the sale of her property. Referring to our Statement of Income and Expenditure (attached to this report) you will see that our gross income was \$198,650 and gross expenditure was \$114,906 of which \$51,939 was spent on food at local supermarkets for our emergency food parcels. A further amount of \$24,161 was expended on food and gift cards for our Christmas Hampers. Our excess of income over expenditure increased to \$84,675 for the financial year ended 30th June 2021. Donations for the year under review from all sources totalled \$162,336.

Despite our best-efforts, administrative expenses continue to rise in 2020-2021, to a total of \$7,403. The advance payment of \$2,482 for insurance contributed to this rise. The number of hits on our website is always a surprise. Just one example, in the first six months of this year 176,225 interested persons spent some time on the site.

We were able to have our advertising logo installed on the food van. Thanks to Rich Jenner at Mornington Signs for his advice and support. We have also updated the signs on the donation bins at the supermarkets.

Food For All has been packing 75 food parcels each week for SPCS during 2021. The weekly packs have grown from 20-30 in January to approx. 130 each week in June.

The ongoing lockdowns have affected the ability of some of our volunteers (age and/or distance restrictions) to come to the Distribution Centre on Thursdays. I have been amazed and extremely grateful for the ongoing commitment of all the packers, the food collectors who collect from the donation bins at the supermarkets and members of the Conferences for all the hard work they put into making the program the efficient success that it is. Also, our van drivers for collecting food from supermarkets, Shepparton Preserving Co. in Bayswater and delivering food parcels, and Christmas gifts throughout the year.

I must thank all our members who have helped keep our weekly pack going. Four small teams of no more than five persons led by Barry Hodgkinson, Peter Bourne and myself have kept up the supply of emergency food aid. Also, Paul Anderson, Darryle Guest, Noel De Sair, Alan Hawkins, Ken Northwood and Peter Bourne who have made themselves available to help with collecting and moving food from the supermarkets to the Distribution Centre and to Diane Falconer OAM for arranging the ordering and purchasing of food.

Another area of support that Food For All has been able to give is to provide the food for the Rosebud Secondary School breakfast program. We have also been able to supply, free of charge, emergency food parcels to the Conferences and SPCS up until the end of the financial year 2020-2021. This has been the result of the large donation in early 2021.

I have had great support from not only our Management Committee but also all of our members both past and present and in particular our immediate past President, Ken Northwood as I have settled into the role of President. At the executive level, it would be remiss of me if I did not pay special tribute to our Treasurer, Alan Hawkins, who guards our donors' money with his life and Diane Falconer OAM our wonderful Secretary who provides her considerable skills with her secretarial and other administrative duties.

I acknowledge and express my personal thanks to the army of members of our Southern Peninsula community including schools, churches, clubs, organisations and individuals, who in various ways and for over just on 30 years have seen fit to support **Food For All**.

Brian Allen OAM
President
20 October 2021