

Supporter Update – September 2019

Dear Friends

I write to update you on some activities, achievements and needs.

As always, Library Aid International's desire is to provide books and educational resources to needy schools in developing countries. This helps to improve educational outcomes and life opportunities as 'Readers Become Leaders'. To-date, six 6-metre shipping containers with more than 180,000 books have been distributed by our overseas partners to over 250 needy schools.

We estimate that if these books and resources were bought new, they would be worth at least \$1 million! Most of the schools we send them to could not afford their cost.

It is planned to send our next (seventh) container in December to arrive in Zimbabwe by March 2020 for distribution to desperately needy schools by various organisations there. The distribution will be co-ordinated by Zimbabwean medical doctor and local government councillor, Dr Themba Bulle of Burnie.

Sending to Zimbabwe involves Library Aid International Inc (LAI) bearing some extra costs including rail transport from Durban, South Africa which will deplete our financial reserves. I have established a GoFundMe project to help cover these extra costs. Please see/click this URL and consider if you can help.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/ian039s-campaign-for-library-aid-international-inc>

The details are also on Library Aid International's FaceBook page. Please think about sharing this with others.

ACTIVITIES and ACHIEVEMENTS

- Books continue to be donated and received regularly.
- Our sixth container of some 30,000 books and educational materials was distributed to needy schools, a vocational college a university and a village to establish a library in Fiji by the Rotary Club of Nadi and volunteers from around Australia as part of the Rotary Fiji Schools Project.
- In August, a number of schools took up our Book Week suggestion by asking students to donate books they no longer use at home to give the "secret power of reading" to a third world child.
- Our Annual General Meeting in September saw all positions filled.
- Over the 12 months from 1st July 2018 to the 30th June 2019 our volunteers provided 1300 hours to sort through more than 860 assorted boxes of books that were received. The suitable books were then repacked into 414 labelled cartons for shipment.

NEEDS

- Continued donations of books, educational items and finances from schools, libraries, individuals and organisations.
- Opportunities to give a presentation about the work of LAI to groups, clubs, churches, etc.
- More people to become members of LAI at \$11 per year who might be willing to become involved further when time allows. The recent sudden death of a Committee member, the fact that the other Committee members are in their mid 60's, 70's and 80's and that we have few financial members reminds us of the need for others come onboard.
- More volunteers who are willing to give some time to sorting books and packing them into cartons.
- Your encouragement, support, prayer and strengthening thoughts.

LAI is grateful to Simplot for providing cartons, Romaine Park Christian Centre in Burnie which continues to provide us with a great venue, Tamara Grey of Simply Grey Graphic Design for designing and maintaining our website, Wayne Blazely for auditing our books, and to De Bruyn's Transport, which transports books left at their various depots around the state to Burnie for sorting and packing by volunteers. DeBruyn's also kindly provides a site for a storage container in their yard and transport our full containers to the wharf for shipping. All of the above have been kindly provided at no cost to LAI.

LAI is thankful for your continued interest and support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Hubble (Secretary)