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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020/2021

I want to start this report by thanking God for His goodness and the grace that we have experienced during the 2020/21 year. We started the year in July only a month out of a covid19 shut down and completed it without another shut down throughout the entire year. This would not have been possible in most other places in Australia or the world.

We have almost been over run with book donations which meant that it was necessary to open up our building another day per week to keep up with the extra sorting and packing. We also continue to receive unexpected monetary donations.

As the container at De Bruyns was filling rapidly with books the decision was made to purchase the next shipping container early and start loading it with the repacked boxes. This would save double handling as has been done in the past. This worked well, with the container being more almost 95% full at the end of June and expected to be on its way to Cape Town by the end of July. Ian Pursch and the Rotary Club of Newlands have again accepted responsibility for the distribution of its contents to needy school in the region.

As mentioned earlier the number of donated books has been much more than in previous years. During April our old container in De Bruyns became completely full of unsorted boxes. This led to the Burnie yard manager telling the Hobart depot not to send anymore boxes through until there was space available. This in turn led to the Hobart depot turning people away as they already had several pallets of boxes in their shed.

Fortunately we have been able to catch up a little since then.

I would like to express my gratitude to De Bruyns Transport for their ongoing support of our work. They continue to transport boxes from all over the state to their Burnie depot as well as pick up and deliver our containers free of charge.

I would also like to thank the following for their support;

Romaine Park Christian Centre for the continued use of their building rent free.

IT Excellence for maintaining and updating our website.

Wayne Blazely for his auditing work.

Penguin Baptist Church for allowing us to put the shipping container in their car park as well as their on going monthly donations.

A special thanks also to our secretary Ian Hubble who has spoken about the work of LAI at Probus Clubs, churches, educational workshops and other service clubs during the year, as well as timely email updates sent to a large number of schools and churches.

Thank you to all the other committee members for your continued support and help which enables Library Aid International Inc to continue supporting the literacy needs of children in third world countries.

Thank you also to all our volunteers who put in over 1500 hours of work sorting through more than 1300 assorted boxes of books and other educational materials. This was then repacked into our 8th container ready for shipment to Cape Town.

Thank you Eva, Shirley, Leonie, Helen, Peter & Lyn, Laura, Sylvia, Jackie and Colleen for all your sorting. Thank you to Mark, Stephen and Allan for your help packing and Alan for removal of all

our rubbish.

Through out the year we also received reports from the 'Friends of Dr Bulle' who were distributing the contents of our 7th container in Southern Zimbabwe. This was a long process due to covid restrictions and teachers' strikes (due to not being paid).

Below are some photos and a letter of acknowledgement we received;



LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR RECEIVING DONATION OF BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL.

May I on behalf of Ntunungwe Secondary School staff, learners, school development committee and indeed the entire community, express our collective and heartfelt gratitude for timeous donation to our young school. The donation, apart from engendering a reading culture in learners also has the simultaneous function of promoting the new curriculum. We envisage that this generous donation will open floodgates for yet more donations to accelerate the growth of Ntunungwe Secondary School.

Once again thank you Library AID International-Australia and friends of Dr Themba Bulle for your helping hand and may the good Lord bless you abundantly.

Yours faithfully

Mpofu Desire (Head)

Peter Cunningham
President
Library Aid International Inc