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President's Report 2021 – 2022

I would like to start by thanking all our volunteers who have helped during this year. They worked 1975 hours sorting through more than 1500 assorted boxes of books and teaching materials. These were then repacked into over 1000 'McCains' cartons. This enabled us to fill a container in less than 12 months.

Thank you to Alan, Colleen & Alan, Helen, Laura, Leonie, Lyn & Peter, Mark & Avril, Lyn, Shirley, Stephen and Vicki & Diane for all your time and effort in helping us achieve this.

Unfortunately we finished the year with the sad news that another very regular and keen volunteer, Judith Sturzaker, had died suddenly at home.

As we started to negotiate with Dr Bulle for the distribution of that full container (our 9th) in Zimbabwe we were shocked to learn that shipping costs had increased by 150% from February 2020. The decision was finally made to send it to Fiji instead.

During the 2020-21 year we managed to keep LAI's sorting and repacking centre open with no covid related interruptions. This year we have not been so fortunate. On the 24 February we were informed that the previous Sunday service had become a 'super-spreader' event. This meant that the main Romaine Park Christian Centre building was shut down for the week to allow for 'deep cleaning'. As we had no access to toilet or kitchen facilities it also meant LAI had to shut down. 2 weeks later the supervisor was a close contact with an active covid case which then meant 7 days isolation, so LAI shut down for another week. In early May the supervisor caught covid which meant another week shut down.

On Saturday October 2nd we held a successful book sale raising \$700.00 in sales and donations. However, after the sale of 4 or 5 books online raised more than \$300.00, the committee decided that we would not have any more book sales at RPCC.

In September we received an offer of 6 pallets of cartons from McCains Smithton.

I picked up the first 3 pallet loads immediately after our book sale. The remaining 3 were picked up by De Bruyn's Transport.

I again thank the management and staff at De Bruyn's Transport for their continued support in the free transport of boxes of books from their depots and also schools in more remote locations. They have continued to provide storage for our old container in their Wivenhoe depot and move empty and full containers, at no cost to LAI, whenever it has been required.

I also thank the following for their continued support.

McCain Foods in Smithton for the supply of cartons.

Romaine Park Christian Centre for the continual use of their building.

IT Excellence for updating and maintaining our website.

Wayne Blazely for his continued auditing work.

Penguin Baptist Church for allowing our current container to sit in their car park.

Thank you also to all the committee members for your continued support and assistance which has enabled Library Aid International Inc to supply books and teaching equipment to needy schools.

Finally I thank God for His continued goodness and grace that has enabled us to accomplish all of this during the past financial year.



Peter Cunningham

President

Library aid International Inc



The full container before it left for Fiji.