

Update – April 2023

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right. Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realise his or her full potential.” — Kofi Annan

Library Aid International Inc (LAI), located in Burnie, Tasmania, aims to improve educational outcomes and life opportunities for children by sending used books and educational resources to needy educational institutions in developing countries. We hope this will encourage 'Readers to Become Leaders' in their own communities and countries. With your help, we are making a difference to the lives of those who are far less fortunate. We are excited to report the following.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON THE WAY TO HELP SOLOMON ISLAND SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Library Aid International Inc. in Burnie, Tasmania has just shipped their tenth 20-foot (6 metre) shipping container of 835 boxes/packages of used pre-school, primary and secondary school, university and Christian books and educational resources to the Solomon Islands. It left Burnie, on April 14, then will leave Melbourne on April 21 and arrive on May 9 in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands.

The container with over 14 tonnes of goods will be received by the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and relocated to Temotu Province. Its contents of books and educational resources will be distributed through our contact, Casper Hillary and helpers to 29 Nende Island schools, 9 Reef Island schools and 16 schools on the Vanikoro, Anuta, Tikopia, Utupua and Duff islands (known as the VATUD islands). Some will also go to Choiseul Province schools.

The container also includes food plants information for the Solomon Islands communities from Food Plants International Inc in Burnie and five laptop computers with additional monitors, a printer, and a large projection screen from Travel With A Cause and Nextband in Hobart, together with library shelving for a provincial library in Lata Town on Nende island in Temotu Province. Some 50,000 people will access this newly built library that currently has an internet connection but few resources.

The Solomon Islands, comprising 992 islands, is one of the poorest countries in the Pacific, ranked 155 of 189 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index [[hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf \(undp.org\)](#)], p.274. Located in an area of high volcanic activity, the Solomon Islands are vulnerable to natural disasters, including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tropical cyclones, and tsunamis.

With very limited tertiary studies in Solomon Islands, Australian scholarships make it possible for Solomon Islanders to study at Australian or regional universities. The scholarships help the Solomon Islands Government to meet the training and human resource development needs of the country. Our contact, Casper Hillary, was fortunate to undertake a Masters Degree at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia with the help of one of these scholarships.

COMING SOON: Some changes will be announced for Library Aid International Inc. PLEASE DO NOT SEND BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES UNTIL OUR NEXT UPDATE.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Hubble
(Secretary)