

President's Report 2024 – 2025

With our first year in our new location at Beulah and handover to the new committee being such a challenge, we envisaged this year being a period of consolidation. It is hard to believe what a challenging year it has been, yet we can't help feeling pleased with our achievements. Our partnership with Food Plants International proved to be very successful, with members from both organisations working side by side, such that it seemed we had a consignment ready in record time. Although there were a few 'hiccups' along the way, it was a great feeling for both organisations to send off the container to New Britain and hear about the distribution of books and resources to the university and other colleges and schools.

The move to the Beulah Hall, despite having many advantages, was not as convenient as we had expected. It was decided to relocate again, to the Sheffield Uniting Church. At the time of writing this report, the set-up is still a "work-in-progress", but we are gradually organising the workspace. Like moving house, you never realise how much stuff you have until you have to move it!

Ill-health – both my own and Peter Cunningham's, have had quite an impact on our operations. We really came to realise how much Peter contributed and have been deeply saddened when his health deteriorated and he was not able to continue his role. Hopefully, he is on the mend, and we pray that his health will improve with time and treatment.

We have been fortunate that we have so many willing helpers, how can we not succeed? With God's help and the wonderful support from the original committee and so much support from many enthusiastic and committed local volunteers, we have developed a wonderful and efficient team. We have a great team of volunteers who turn up faithfully for working bees each week and it looks like we will fill the container for the Solomon Islands in the relatively near future.

This, of course, brings to focus the need for fundraising to be able to purchase and freight the container. We have been fortunate to have a group of local volunteers who have put a lot of time, commitment and effort into organising some wonderfully successful events. Not only have they put our organisation 'out there' into the community, but they have also raised funds beyond our wildest expectations! Thanks to Astrid, Jady, Ruth, Denise and Anita, the calibre of our humble Book

Fairs, Quiz Nights and Pet Show have been raised to a whole new level. Unfortunately, it is never enough, and we still have a lot more work to do to have enough funds to freight the current container.

I have so many people to thank for their support. We are so grateful to the many generous donors. Thank you to all the schools, organisations and individuals who have donated books and educational materials to LAI. This year, our donations of books from around Tasmania have been so abundant, that we have had to put a stop on donations for several months. Thank you to the management of De Bruyn's Transport, for the ongoing support of LAI. Their state-wide depots have been collection points for boxes of donated books which have been transported to our container in the East Devonport depot, free of charge for many years.

I cannot begin to thank people enough, especially the members of the committee for your support. Once again a huge thank you to Ian Hubble, who has been of great assistance in contacting our donors and assisting with the logistics of running the organisation. A special thank you to Peter Cunningham. We have really appreciated your contribution. And a big thank you to all our local volunteers who turn up so faithfully each week

I am inspired by the words that Peter Cunningham used in his 2023 report, which are worth repeating and seem so appropriate. *Once again, we thank God for His continued goodness and grace that has enabled us to accomplish all of this. I pray that He will continue to bless the new committee, enabling them to send several more containers of books and educational materials to improve literacy, educational outcomes and life opportunities for children in disadvantaged schools in developing countries.*

Leoni Read
September 7, 2025