

BOOKS FOR LESOTHO INC.

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Mountains in Lesotho under snow. Rudi Botha. Used with permission.

NEWSLETTER No. 20, DECEMBER 2020

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Board of Books for Lesotho

Please note we are closed on Wednesday 30 December 2020

NEWS

1. A NEW BRANCH IN SYDNEY – The B4L Board recently approved a Business Plan and Memorandum of Understanding for consideration by a group based in Sydney with the intention of commencing a branch in Sydney. I hope by Newsletter No. 21 to be able to report that it is up and running.
2. THE BARN has been operating at top pace since re-opening on 29 April with all volunteers keeping busy. In the September Newsletter I reported that we needed books because of a slow-up in deliveries due to COVID-19. South Pacific School Aid came to our immediate aid with a generous supply of mainly upper secondary novels – thank you SPSA. In due course, deliveries picked up such that sorters have not been short of work... However, there continues to be shortage at secondary school level of novels and non-fiction: can you help? Please ask at your local school, or friends or.....
3. IMMANUEL COLLEGE AND BOOK WEEK



Through the good services of Dr Kylie Booker and Resource Centre staff, the Senior School supported B4L again during Book Week. B4L volunteers collected a great store of books from the school – donated by students during Book Week. We also received a cash donation – something that is needed to support the sending of the books to Lesotho. Thank you all.

4. OTHER BOOK DONORS – Thank you to all who have delivered books to B4L this year, especially those after the COVID-19 closures, including many new donors.
5. MITCHAM 50-AND-OVER EXERCISE GROUP
Members of this group have been long-term supporters of B4L mainly through voluntary donations, usually by placing small amounts into a “tin” at the entrance to their exercise sessions. Things have been very unsettled since the start of COVID-19 and upon return much uncertainty about a venue. As a result, the regular pattern of giving has been disrupted and **donations are down**; in the past six months \$373.75 compared with \$529.00 in the same period last year. B4L hopes the loyal supporters will seek out the “tin” and start up again.

6. **REMEMBER** in the last Newsletter I reported on the Rotary Club of Maloti sharing in the opening of the new village Library in Mpharane (in the Mophale district) - an initiative of Ntate (Mr) Mothae Moletsane. He recently sent me two reports:

Hallo David!! It's been a long time. How is life? Lesotho is good. We had enough rain recently to plough our fields. I was busy in the fields. Covid 19 has really taught us a lesson as individuals that we must work hard to produce more especially on Agriculture. We are still trying to instil the culture of reading to our local community ...they are not using the library very often, but bit by bit, we are getting there. Community mostly need daily services like photo-copying and printing. However, we are still looking forward to receiving more books early next year from B4L project. Mothae



Good morning David! How is life? We are currently busy working in the fields here in Lesotho, planting summer crops. I just bought this coloured printer, photocopy and scanning machine for our community library, as most people come to the library looking for this kind of services. We are slowly getting there. We receive free weekly newspapers from three English Newspaper namely Public Eye, Lesotho Times and The Post Newspaper. The Government Sesotho newspaper, "Lentsoe La Basotho" also agreed to give us free copies every Wednesday, though we have not yet started

collecting them. Some local communities are starting to donate books to the library, e.g. last week one Court Magistrate who is from our area donated 5 good books. We highly appreciate that. We hope the money collected from photocopies and printing will help to give our volunteer a small monthly stipend. We also give M200 (AUD20) monthly to the owner of the building. We might also get second hand/used bookshelves from the National University of Lesotho. Good news on harvesting ...we currently have good rains and we also hoping for good harvest next wintercheers! Mothae

Sounds like good news for Lesotho on several fronts.

FROM INSIDE THE BARN



This item continues the series where we hear from a volunteer at The Barn. Here is Ray Janus who is our expert book packer, diligent counter (how do you think we know how many books we have sent?) and very regular volunteer.

On entering the barn where B4L is located one encounters a somewhat chaotic collection of shelves, tables and books seemingly stashed in any number of places. A closer inspection reveals that there is a specific location for everything to accommodate sorted and unsorted books, packed pallets and specific spots for sorting and packing books. There are even dedicated spaces for incomplete book series, teaching materials and games but unfortunately for the volunteers there is no space for a tea-room although outdoors is a pleasant option most days.

All the books are sorted into appropriate age levels and are either stored or packed as required. The variety and quality of the books is very impressive with only a small number requiring minor repairs. The most interesting section for this volunteer is the 1 to 3 school year level that spans the learning to read years. These books come



in all shapes and sizes (that can be awkward to pack) and cover many topics with some having strange titles such as 'Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!'. It is interesting to note how so many of the books have animal characters. The best part of the books is the attractive artwork which is detailed and colourful. This is a significant change from when there were



limited children's books with black and white illustrations (Left Figure) to now (Right Figure).

FINANCES

Straight facts:

Donations since 01 July 2020 = \$8,479

Same period last year = \$4,350

Budget for 2020/21 = \$14,203

Help us "Close-the -gap"... \$5,724

B4L started the 2020/21 financial year confident that funds will be raised to cover the shipping costs of another 11 pallets of books for our current two in-country partners, Rotary Club of Maloti and Transformation Resource Centre. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you...

There are three ways to donate.

1. The easy way for you and B4L is to make a donation through GiveNow. This is a secure online donation service: **CLICK on the LINK** and make a tax-deductable donation



2. Another easy way is through PayPal - **CLICK HERE: [PayPal Fundraising Hub](#)**. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use this service

3. Send a donation directly to our bank account:
Account Name: BOOKS FOR LESOTHO INCORPORATED
BSB: 035-044 Account No: 228285

To receive receipt (especially for tax purposes) you **MUST** send an email to B4L advising that you have made the deposit together with your contact details.

David Linn
Chairman, Books for Lesotho Inc.

