

## BOOKS FOR LESOTHO INC.

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

## NEWSLETTER No. 22, JUNE 2021

### A Great Loss to Humanity



On Wednesday 09 June 2021, I advised you all that 'M'me Mosa Muso had died. I wrote: "She was a quiet, intelligent and caring human. I" blame" Mosa for the fact that we are here this morning at The Barn in Adelaide packing books for Lesotho – a project which Liz and I started (with, over time, huge help from lots of other people) in response to Mosa's dream of establishing a library in every school in Lesotho. Since accepting the original challenge, Books for Lesotho has shipped books to the Transformation Resource Centre (for which Mosa was Librarian for many years) and more recently also to the Rotary Club of Maloti. It is to RCoMa that we are about to send 5 pallets of books which will bring the total number of books shipped to Lesotho to more than 210,000."

We have since received the report: "The funeral went so well with so many people mostly her friends from Lesotho and South Africa. But it was so emotional, many people crying. She is resting in peace."

In my email, many of you received a very poor 3<sup>rd</sup> image, so I repeat it here – in memory of Mosa. It was taken at Welkom, South Africa, February 2020.

### Now, A SURPRISE:

It was an email from Candice Page from the Friends of Springbank Secondary College:

"I recently nominated the team from Books for Lesotho, for the "Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service Award". The nomination was successful, and I have received the Premier's Certificate for presentation. Lesotho holds many precious memories for me, and I am in awe of the fabulous work that this special team of volunteers do. They absolutely need to be celebrated.

Kind regards

Candice Page"

**Wow! What good friends we have! But see later....**

**Then along came ANOTHER SURPRISE – on the 18<sup>th</sup> May:** First, some background. The Rotary Club of St Peters runs "Rotary-on-Linde Shed" which looks to me a great place to check out <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/12651> B4L receives regular donations of books from the Club usually delivered by member John Dumberley. During one delivery, John invited me to speak to the Club, which I willingly did.

Liz and I were warmly welcomed and enjoyed their fellowship. I presented the B4L story in my usual way, after which I was thanked and presented with a couple of chocolates to enjoy with my coffee! Suddenly, John was beside me proffering an envelope. I read the front and my mouth dropped in dis-belief as it advised that the cheque inside was for \$1,000. **Wow!**

**What good friends we have!** Image shows: Club President, Bill Winslow with Arthur Terrell, Liz and David Linn, John Dumberley and Phil Smith.

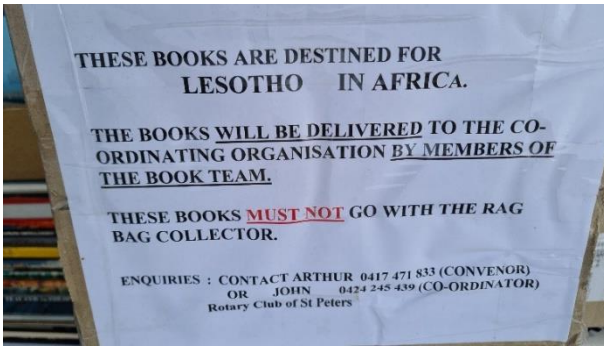


### 2020/21 FINANCES:

Donations = \$12,047                      Same period last year = \$10,892

Expenses (estimate) = \$13,973 (freight costs have just risen by 55% - this is our main expense)

**Help us "Close-the -gap"... \$1926 by 30 June 2021**



Left Image: Shows the care Rotary takes with the delivery of books



Right Image: Pallet of books from Melbourne

Do you recall the report of a pallet arriving at The Barn during January loaded with empty cartons in which we pack books destined for Lesotho? Well, during April another pallet arrived from Melbourne, also courtesy of Chris McEvoy of Preschem Pty Ltd. These books are mainly from Epping Primary School.

**Here's dedication:**

Tina Berkley from Epping Primary School (refer to image above right) wrote in response to our thanks: "You are very welcome. glad we can help such a good cause. Parents have already started to donate more books".



**WHAT'S THIS (image left)?** From another generous donor – Jurlique in Mt Barker, SA. These are second-hand plastic pallets on which B4L packs the cartons ready for shipping. Thank you Jurlique. (B4L uses plastic pallets our shipments transit in Singapore and that port does not accept wooden pallets.)

**WHAT HAPPENS?** ...to books that do not suit B4L partners? Where possible we "recycle" them to other book-related NGOs. Image right shows Liz and David making such a deliver during April to our friends at South Pacific School Aid (SPSA). While there, they collected a huge box of atlases in very good condition and a box of dictionaries – both of these items have been in short supply lately at B4L. Importantly they also collected a range of books to include in the shipment to Rotary Club of Maloti which are heading for the community library at Mpharane started by Ntate Mothae Moletsane (about which you have read a lot in the last 2 newsletters). What we sought was books for an adult audience which B4L does not usually have – SPSA helped to partially fill the requirement. Thank you, friends.



**It's nice to know when enough books have been delivered...**



To the right is Morija Guest House (you must stay there when you visit Lesotho!) It is owned by Brigitte Hall-Cathala. Brigitte also hosts a local centre for children and young people (see the Centre below the Guest House in the second image). B4L has supplied the centre with books sent via partner TRC. Here is her recent message:

"Thanks a lot for your message and the attached Newsletter. They show that your energy level is as high as ever, well done!  
I was very interested to read the full story of Books for Lesotho beginnings as told by 'M'e Mosa, she sounds like a remarkable lady!  
I was also very glad to read that the Morija Seminary will soon receive a shipment of books, wonderful news.



On our side, the Ha Matela Youth Centre was very happy and grateful to receive the 2 large boxes you sent in 2020. Our library is quite full now, even with the shelves we added! So I think I should tell you not to include us in future shipments, not out of lack of gratitude but because I guess that many other centres or schools need your help while we are doing OK, at least as far as books are concerned. Unfortunately, other aspects of our work are not so positive, especially as we probably will not get any new volunteers (editor: from Europe) till 2022 so we have to find new ways of running the Centre."



**AND AN EMAIL “OUT OF THE BLUE”....** We received a message and images (showing how B4L contact details were found) during March from Thato Moleki who is a Student Assistant at Methodist High School in Maseru. He reported on the receipt of books from B4L through TRC and offered support for the project. Thank you, Thato. We hope our books have widened the range of books available on the school library.



**WHAT’S THIS?**



Do you recall the image on the left in the last newsletter? It was the “mysterious 8<sup>th</sup> pallet” being sent with the shipment to TRC being books suitable for the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) Morija Theological Seminary. The books have arrived in Lesotho (see below). The interest here was so high that sufficient books were donated to fill a 2<sup>nd</sup> pallet which is due to leave The Barn before the end of June with the shipment for Rotary Club of Maloti. As reported previously, such a shipment does not match the B4L goal of developing libraries in schools, but it did match helping people in Lesotho with reading resources.

Adding to an existing shipment is not a burden to B4L. The costs must be covered by a private funds which are still needed, mainly because of the recent increase in shipping charges. I think this is an amazing result.

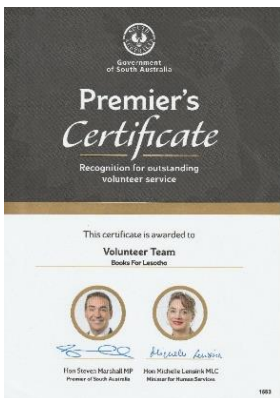


We now have a report from Ntate Matsobane Putsoa (both a Rotarian and a supporter of the seminary) who wrote: “The books were handed over yesterday on 19th May. The school lecturers were very excited about the quality of the books and the renowned authors. They are convinced they are going to pass the accreditation inspection next week because of their improved library. Thank you so much Books 4 Lesotho - this from all of us - Rotarians, lecturers and students.”



Here are images of the book hand-over and a view inside the library.

**LATEST NEWS 1**



I refer back to the “surprise” mentioned on page 1.... Books for Lesotho is very proud to receive the Premier’s Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. and grateful to Candice for nominating us.



The B4L Board agreed to host a morning tea Wednesday 16 June at which time the certificate was presented by Carolyn Power MP with Candice joining in. Unfortunately, most of the Wednesday volunteers were off doing other things, but those of us who braved the weather had a lovely morning tea and lots of fun.

**LATEST NEWS 2**

Two large black plastic boxes of books have come from Narangba Valley State High School in Queensland organised by Tamara Holden in the school resource centre...



## LATEST NEWS 3



The shipment of 4 pallets of books for Rotary Club of Maloti together with a (second) pallet of theology books for Morija Theological Seminary (the latter funded privately) left The Barn on 23 June 2021. The image was supplied by Hank who is one of the new volunteers needed to supplement the sorting team.


## OTHER NEWS

1. SUPPLY OF BOOKS - There continues to be a shortage of non-fiction at secondary level and fiction at lower secondary school level: can you help? Please ask at your local school, or friends or.....
2. MITCHAM 50-AND-OVER EXERCISE GROUP - Since July 2020, donations have totalled \$719 compared with \$822 for last year. Thank you.

## FINANCES

Donations = \$12,047                      Same period last year = \$10,892  
Expenses (estimate) = \$13,973 (freight costs have just risen by 55% - this is our main expense)  
**Help us "Close-the -gap"... \$1926**

**There are now three ways to donate – each one will produce a receipt for Australian tax purposes.**

1. The easy way for you and B4L is to donate through GiveNow.  
This is a secure online donation service: **CLICK here** 



2. Another easy way for both parties is through PayPal:  
[Click HERE to visit our PayPal Giving Fund page](#)  
Or use the PayPal QR Code to the right.  
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  
If you donate directly, and want a receipt, you **MUST** send an email to B4L with your details, the date and amount deposited.

## TOO MANY WORDS?

Once again, at the start of preparing the Newsletter, I expected it would be a short one, but the news keeps rolling in – like the books do.

Thank you everyone who has contributed in whatever way.

David Linn  
Chairman, Books for Lesotho Inc.

