

BOOKS FOR LESOTHO INC.

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

NEWSLETTER No. 27, SEPTEMBER 2022

GOOD NEWS STORIES

During August 2022 while packing the 3rd pallet out of 7 pallets making up the 16th shipment for our long-term partner, Transformation Resource Centre, we passed an important marker:

250,000 books packed for Lesotho

The first shipment (being 3 pallets of books) to our new partners, **Rotary Club of Mantsopa (RCoMan)** arrived in Maseru on 31 August 2022.

We received the following email in July from our 2nd partner in Lesotho, **Rotary Club of Maloti (RCoMal)**:
Goodday David,

As we approach the end of the Rotary year, this month being the last, I wish to once again reiterate our appreciation of so much energy and resources expended and with so much dedication you and your sponsors have shown during the previous and current year. It was a great pleasure working with you. From 1 July 2022, there will be a new Director of Foundation that you may work with during the July 2022/June 2023 period. I will finish off with the Clearing Agent to ensure that books enroute reach their destinations accordingly.

*By the way, after receiving all the documents that you sent, I was able to successfully negotiate with **Lesotho Revenue Authority for exemption of value added tax**. That accomplishment will be shared with Mantsopa Rotary Club and others wishing to import donated books.*

Best regards..

Bore Motsamai

I have highlighted above in red what is the most exciting financial news, certainly for our 3 Lesotho partners. For 16 years the Lesotho Revenue Authority (now known as “Revenue Services Lesotho” – RSL) has levied VAT, calculated at 14% of the TOTAL COST of sending books from Adelaide to Maseru. Initially B4L paid this cost, but of recent years the local partners have contributed by paying the VAT and the import agent’s fee. With the huge increase in shipping charges over the last 2 years, the VAT charge was weighing heavily on our partners’ limited funds. There have been many attempts over the years to have VAT waved, but without success. Due to the diligence of Ntate Bore from RCoMal, all 3 partners should now be able to receive shipments without paying the extra cost of VAT. Good news indeed. Thank you Bore.

Our first two boxes are here!!! (Email dated Wed, 17 Aug, 13:06)

Hello David,

Our courier has a small car and wasn't able to carry all the boxes, (there are 4 boxes) but the first two are here and we are so excited!! He will be bringing the rest next Tuesday.

Please see here some of the photos we took. Behind me is the empty shelf we had prepared for the books, and then you see it after we put them up with my staff in front.

The women's names are Mantsali and Boitumelo and they have been working at NewToro Books since Aug 1st.

We are getting a new shelf made this week for the books that are coming next week.

We have a local carpenter who does a good job at low cost.

We are so grateful and we will keep you posted.

Cheers,

Rets (Retsepile) Sello





You have just read the report from NewToro Books. It is a Lesotho NGO set up to provide a subscription book lending service to all residents of Lesotho with delivery to the door! Funding for freighting of the 4 boxes of books referred to in Rets' report was from B4L's normal budget as they were included in the RCoMal shipment. Funds to provide further support to NewToro were raised by B4L through a special appeal. Surely this story supports the reason B4L exists. And the next email from Rets:



our new books. We have over 100 people signed up. What we plan to do is send out as many of our new books as possible, and gather people are liking them, if they again, etc. So we will keep you But personally, at first glance books; my staff members are them. I will be sending you more I am super excited about, next painting it ourselves today.

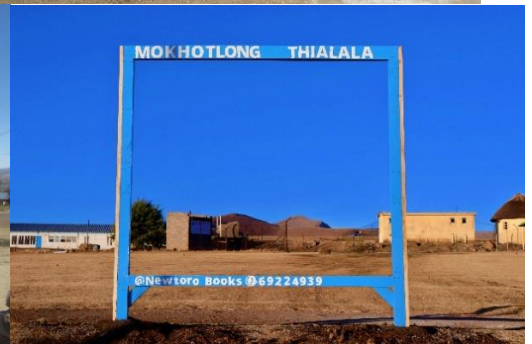


some initial feedback; how would read similar books in the loop as we receive that. there are some really good already reading some of

photos of our big board which week. We only finished

And on 24 August 2022:

*Hello David,
Our last two boxes have arrived!! Yesterday we delivered 25 of the new books to other districts and 12 in Mokhotlong. We have over 180 orders for the new books and our courier is only able to deliver 25 per week, so for the first time at Newtoro we have a long waiting list thanks to B4L.
Our board/photo frame, which B4L sponsored, is also up. Please see some photos attached.
Thank you, David,
Rets*



And David says, "Thank you to all the B4L supporters who helped this happen through the donations of books, the sorting and packing and finally the financing!"

Check out: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/onjex/onjp/> Turn to: "NewToro promotes a reading culture in Lesotho"

GOOD NEWS ABOUT 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

Thanks to some last-minute \$ donations, your donations covered the “normal” expenses for 2021/22, despite the large increase in shipping costs. Thank you to all who helped during the year.

The extra shipment to RCoMan was ultimately financed by the donation from the Lang Foundation; thank you. The image to the right shows the shipment in Maseru on 31 August 2022. What an impressive sight!



THE CHALLENGE FOR 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR

The B4L Board has approved a budget of \$22,939 compared with \$16,429 for last year. The increase is due to increased costs and the inclusion of our new partner, RCoMan. This amount will be a challenge! To date \$3,225 has been raised; can you help close the gap?

We pack our books into new cartons/boxes. Images of the cartons appear throughout this newsletter. We save cash through the free supply of the cartons by Preschem Pty Ltd in Melbourne. A year's supply, 210, arrived at The Barn during August. Thanks Chris and team for this significant on-going in-kind support.

NEED FOR BOOKS

While books continue to arrive at The Barn for sorting and packing, we seek additional supplies – as always, there is a special need for Year 6 to 12, fiction and non-fiction. Please ask your school whether they can assist. Thank you, South Pacific School Aid, for recently coming to our aid with lots of secondary-level books.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in whatever way.

David Linn
Chairman, Books for Lesotho Inc.



TO DONATE

There are 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](#)
A PayPal account is not required 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.

P.S. Recently I read that Books for Zimbabwe Inc., which is based in Wollongong, New South Wales, passed 100,000 books delivered to 18 school libraries. Congratulations on your achievements. From B4L.

Postscript: The following images have just been noted in a post by The Post (Lesotho). They show a very recent joint book distribution by RCoMan and RCoMal. It is very pleasing to see the end result of our book sourcing, sorting, packing and freighting: books which otherwise might have ended up as pulp now being available to new readers in the Kingdom of Lesotho.



And on 21 September, I received an email from M'e Maude Boikanyo of the RCoMal concerning the next shipment B4L will pack. Firstly, she wrote, "Greetings extended to the B4L team in its totality." She then went on to detail the schools they would be targeting:

- We considered beneficiaries in the mountain areas of the country as our target for this lot
- Also considered dealing with the Local Schools Authorities for the area identified for guidance on the need.
- Try and seek partnerships for other aspects that would make a bigger impact, for this our thought was to enquire about plans that the Ministry already has in place.

We were thus able to zero in on Thaba Tseka District, we are in touch with the current Education Officer in the district of Thaba Tseka, Ms Moleboheng Matlosa, who was quite excited about the news and willing to get involved. The Ministry of Education has embarked on a project to jack up and assist perpetual poor performers in Primary and High Schools with whatever is required to get them out of their situations. To this effect they have sought out funding and support internationally, and with the B4L, we shall be adding to the support. In short, the destination is poor performing schools in Thaba Tseka.

I find this exciting news, as targeting such schools takes B4L back, particularly to the first shipments (2007 – 2011) which went to schools in great need, many being in remote and mountainous areas.

David