



ABCA

Australian Books for
Children of Africa Ltd

**Welcome to the ABCA August
newsletter.**

**We are enjoying all the feedback from
our latest shipment to Gauteng and are
thrilled that we were able to deliver
books to Mozambique for the first time.**

**This month we shine a light on one of
our newest volunteers, Gary Adler, as we
continue our "Spotlight on our
Volunteers" segment.**

**With our record breaking year of
shipments we have run low on books.
Our next book packing (heading to
Kenya) will now take place on 25
November (instead of 14 October).
Please beg, borrow and steal books, ask
your friends and neighbours. Remember
the book nook is open 24/7 for drop-offs.**



Shipment heading to Port Elizabeth

Thank you to all our amazing sorters and packers, our next shipment is heading to Port Elizabeth.

This is our 5th shipment for the year!





ABCA NEWS



ABCA's first shipment to Mozambique arrives...finally...

Isac and Katrina Condesse, an Australian couple, contacted ABCA in 2022 inquiring about getting books to a pre-school they established in Beira, Mozambique for children ages 2 to 6. This is the only preschool in the area. The name of the school is Nova Vida, which means 'New Life' in Portuguese, the national language of Mozambique.

Isac and Katrina live in Mozambique with their young family. Katrina works as a missionary and Isac works for the local Government as a medical doctor.

The Condesse family are busy extending their project to include a primary school, and plan to have an extensive library for the school, which the community of 1500 families will also benefit from!

After much logistical planning and all modes of transport, Lauren and Andrea, our dream-team in South Africa arranged for the delivery of books to arrive in Mozambique. The books went on a long, circuitous route to get there: Melbourne to Durban (by ship), Durban to Johannesburg (by truck), Johannesburg to Midrand (by Uber), Midrand to Nelspruit (by air), Nelspruit to Chimoio in Mozambique (by Mercy Air), and from Chimoio to Beira (by air)! Thank you to everyone involved in getting the books through each stage of the journey.

Isac tells us: "We loved going to the airport, and we watched the plane land, and saw the boxes being taken out of the plane – all very exciting!"

Our deep appreciation for your help is greater than words can express, our excitement at helping our community is huge, and thank you so much for working with us to help achieve our dream!! Once again, thanks so much for all you have done to help African children have access to books."





Gary Adler, one of our latest ABCA recruits

Australian Books for Children of Africa...how did I get here? I have always loved books and want everyone to enjoy the benefits of access to them. In most places in Australia we have amazing public libraries so we have easy access to books.

I sold my business, "The Chocolate Box" in December 2020. I have spent my life managing this retail confectionery & café business with stores in Melbourne & Sydney. Although I loved (and still love) chocolate and retailing, I have always wanted to be in the book retailing business. In June 2021 I began volunteering with the Posh Opp Shoppe which raises funds to support Aides for children with disabilities. Rosalie Silverstein, the Posh Opp Shoppe founder kindly allowed me to take control of the book department. What fun! It is like the famous line in the movie, Forrest Gump: "My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get." Well from chocolates to books...the stock arrives as donations every week & you never know what you are going to get. I am both constantly amazed by what arrives, both in incredible quality and variety, as well as a lot of junk. I now do a weekly run with loads of books to take to the recycling center.

An area of particular interest is children's books. I receive large quantities for various reasons. Sometimes children grow out of books and want to clear them from their bookshelves. Other times the parents are "tidying up". Quite often we get books that are in such perfect condition that I imagine they were received as a present, but not to the child's interest so, we get them.

The quantity that we receive is more than we are able to sell and I usually only normally allow books to sit on the shelves for around 6 - 8 months. Susie Kennett assists me at the Opp Shoppe and one day I was complaining about what to do with the excess children's books which I have to throw away. She mentioned ABCA to me...and the rest is history. I now bring 1 - 2 cartons of books nearly every week. I love the fact that these books can get a second life to children who do not have easy access to books.



THANK YOU



See the gorgeous photos and thank you video from Nova Vida, Mozambique



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl-p0_fFfg4

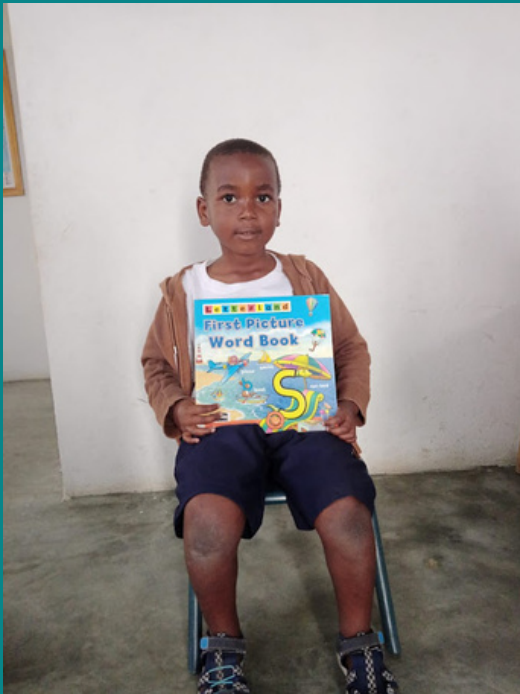
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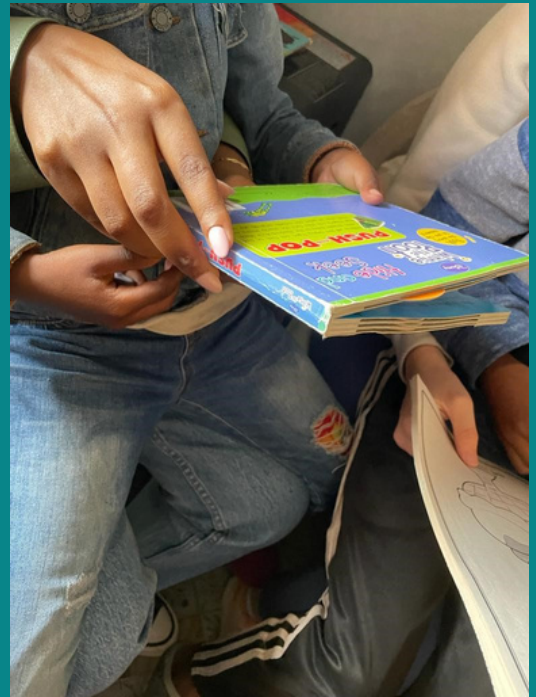
Bathande's Reading Club in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

Bathande's is a weekend reading club for children of all ages in Khayelitsha, a township in Cape Town. It is run by Kholi Potwana, who raised her children in the tight-knit community of Khayelitsha. She opened her home in 2018 to the neighbourhood children and started reading to them. What began as a small reading group has now grown to over 80 children who attend regularly on Saturdays.

Bathande Children's Reading Club works closely with parents and volunteers, and offers local children the opportunity to foster a passion for reading and strong literary skills.

The ABCA books were distributed to Bathande's Reading Club by the Union of Jewish Women in Cape Town.





ABCA books delivered to Good Hope Seminary Junior School, Cape Town

Good Hope Seminary Junior School in Vredehoek, Cape Town, is an underprivileged school with over 400 learners from Grade R to 7. All the books in the school library come from donations, as the school has no budget for books. Each class has a 30-minute weekly library lesson and the library is also open during breaks. The majority of learners are bussed in from the townships. They receive breakfast in the mornings, and for most learners this is their only meal of the day.

ABCA received the following message from Barbara Donen, the school librarian, together with the photos:

"I can't thank you enough! The school will send an official letter but I just wanted to report back and thank you personally. Vanessa [from Union of Jewish Women in Cape Town] visited our library yesterday with boxes of the most wonderful selection of books. I'm not sure who was more excited – the children or the adults. Your contribution from the Australian Books for Children of Africa will help to make a difference to the lives of our learners and I can't thank you enough. (As you will notice we are not allowed to take photos of the faces.)"





SAVE THE
DATES



**Save these dates
for our ABCA book
packing:**

Our next book packing will take place on Saturday 25 November

11.00am - 1.00pm

**SAVE
THE DATES**

**ABCA BOOK
PACKING
DATES FOR
2023**



ABCA

Australian Books for
Children of Africa Ltd

- 18 FEBRUARY 2023
- 1 APRIL 2023
- 1 JULY 2023 **Cancelled**
- 12 AUGUST 2023
- 14 OCTOBER 2023 **Cancelled**
- 25 NOVEMBER 2023