

**FEBRUARY
2024**



ABCFA

Australian Books for
Children of Africa Ltd

Welcome to our February 2024 newsletter.

We held out first book sorting and packing for the year and are now waiting for the shipment to be picked up from the shed. This shipment is heading to Gauteng.

This month we shine a light on one of our younger volunteers, Alec Bergman who along with his brother and father are regular attendees at the ABCFA shed.

Enjoy reading the feedback we received from various distributions late last year.

A reminder that we will be belatedly celebrating our 20 year anniversary this year. If any of you have any ideas or want to participate in the planning please let us know.

Watch the brilliant thank you video we received from Jompani Primary School in Zimbabwe courtesy of Pastor Alex Dewa.

Click here: <https://youtu.be/PrnflvVQ6jw>



Book packing and sorting dates for 2024

Book sorting: Thursdays
8.00pm-9.30pm



ABCA

Australian Books for
Children of Africa Ltd

15 February

2 May

4 July

29 August

7 November

Book Packing: Saturdays

11.00am-1.00pm

17 February

4 May

6 July

31 August

9 November



ABCA NEWS



First book sorting and packing for 2024







Books arrive in Kenya

Our ABCA books have arrived in Kenya. We are looking forward to lots of feedback and photos.





Alec Bergman - one of our youngest volunteers

I was introduced to the ABCA at a young age by my father, who has been working with them for some time. I took an instant liking to the charity and have continued working with them, as I believe it's an incredible cause. Typically, my role consists of packing the books into boxes with my dad and brother, whilst catching up with other volunteers and enjoying a great chat. The culture created by the wonderful volunteers and coordinators is exceptional and makes helping feel like a social gathering, rather than work. I plan to continue working with ABCA for many years to come, as they work hard to create an impact and improve the lives of many less fortunate children. Growing up in Australia, I have been fortunate to receive a great education, and hence understand how important education is. Children should not be restricted to great literature based on their country.

Providing books for children in Africa offers many significant positive impacts, most notably being empowering education. Books act as a gateway to knowledge, fostering a love for learning and creativity and building the foundation for children's educational journeys. The books given to children in Africa by ABCA equip them with lifelong skills, such as leadership, critical thinking and problem solving. ABCA works diligently to provide a better future for children in Africa, and ensure they are given some opportunities commonly taken for granted in other countries. Books encourage lifelong learning as well as foster strong connections between children. They can read and bond over books together, helping to promote a sense of community, friendship and a shared love for reading. The advantages of books are truly limitless.

I have loved every second of working with the ABCA, and it is always so uplifting to see many new faces there each time, as I know they too will experience the gratitude and warmth of working with such a great foundation. There are many ways to get involved, and they don't always involve packing the books. Donating pre-loved books is a great way to show support and make a difference. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes as well, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the coordinators who put in so much time and effort for such an amazing cause. To the amazing volunteers at ABCA, your impact is immeasurable. Together, let's continue spreading the joy of reading and learning to even more children in Africa.



THANK YOU



Young Dreams Academy in Epworth, Zimbabwe

ABCA sent Pastor Alex Dewa four boxes of books. Pastor Alex was so happy with the books that he decided to distribute them to four different schools instead of just the one school. These schools are struggling because the kids can't speak English and can't read because they don't have reading books.

The first school to receive ABCA books was Young Dreams Academy in Epworth. Epworth is one of the poorest communities in a high-density area in Harare, Zimbabwe. Young Dreams Academy is a charity school for orphans and underprivileged kids, and there are 150 kids at the school. The school doesn't have a library and most of the kids cannot read because they do not have access to textbooks or reading books. The school is now making sure that each kid gets a reading book. The school thanked ABCA for the blessing of supporting the school, and really appreciate the donation of books.

Pastor Alex said in a voice note to ABCA: "We want to thank you so much for the books. We look forward to working with Australian Books for Children of Africa in making a difference in the lives of our children. This partnership is going to change lives. It is going to improve the reading culture of these children in high-density places. It gives them hope and the capacity to read. If someone can read, he can rise. We appreciate it so much. Thank you."





Jompani Primary School - Zimbabwe

ABCA books were delivered to Jompani Primary School, in Sanyati Kadoma Village, Zimbabwe, by Pastor Alex Dewa.

Jompani Primary is a charity school located in a poor community that depends on farming for survival. The school doesn't have a library, and they were very happy to receive books from ABCA as they say the students will now have an opportunity to read books and study. It is wonderful to see how engrossed the students are in the books!





Chambatata Primary School, Zambia

The children of Chambatata Primary School in Zambia were very excited by their ABCA book delivery.



Orengo Primary School, Kenya

The school is located in Bondo, Siaya County, and is a sister school to Rona School of excellence. Both are run by the Rona Foundation. When they saw the books Rona School had been given, they decided they would not be left behind. The school will really benefit from this donation as they have not had a library before.



Lourdes Primary School, Soweto

Lourdes Primary School in Soweto have a library with very old books. The school is very concerned about the number of children throughout the school who are reading below standard, particularly post-Covid. They are determined to focus on encouraging reading in the foundation phase classes so that this issue is resolved going forward.

The school was extremely happy to receive much-needed books from ABCA to improve their library and help with their reading program. The photos were taken in the media centre and in their new reading garden.





Bags for Beginnings Project (Johannesburg)

ABCA are very happy to have contributed to the 'Bags for New Beginnings' project of The Union of Jewish Women in Johannesburg. These bags are gifted to new mothers who don't have any items for their newborns when giving birth at government clinics and hospitals. The bags include donated items of everything the new mothers will need to start their journey of motherhood with dignity and joy. For the first time, an ABCA baby book was included in each bag. What better way to encourage reading than for a newborn baby to start life with their own ABCA book!



