

MARCH 2023



ABCA

Australian Books for
Children of Africa Ltd

**Welcome to the ABCA March
newsletter.**

**Exciting news! Our books have arrived
in Durban! We are awaiting customs
clearance and look forward to book
distribution updates and photos.**

**This month we are introducing a new
segment:**

"Spotlight on Our Volunteers"

**We will ask our volunteers why they got
involved with ABCA what they get out
of volunteering. This month David
Grieve tells us about his special
connection to ABCA and Zimbabwe.**

**We won't have a newsletter next month,
we'll see you again in May.**

**We wish everyone celebrating Happy
Easter, Happy Passover and Ramadan
Mubarak!**



ABCA NEWS



ABCA Book Packing

On a chilly Melbourne winters day our wonderful packing volunteers filled our Melbourne shed with their warmth and laughter as they worked steadily to pack over 2 thousand books bound for Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. It was fantastic to welcome new volunteers Sree and Matanko into our midst and to welcome back Emeka after a long hiatus.







David Grieve talks ABCA AND Kenya

David Grieve is a business adviser with a very special affinity for Zimbabwe. Born and bred in Australia, David's first real connection with Zimbabwe was through a friend's Zimbabwean wife and parents-in-law.

It was when researching a joke to be played on the friend's Zimbabwean parents-in-law that David met the amazing Ruth Feigenbaum in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Ruth had founded and managed the AIDS charity, Sofgoti which provides counselling, craft and support services for those affected by AIDS.

David started sending boxes of children's clothing to Sofgoti which he continued to do for over 5 years. It was fortuitous that David and ABCA found each other through a friendly introduction by one of our previous volunteers. David really enjoyed the enthusiasm and comradeship of book packing with other ABCA volunteers and was inspired to change his Zimbabwean focus from clothing to books. Being the 'can do' person he is, David immediately instigated and arranged for ABCA to start sending boxes of books to Zimbabwe. Initially he focused on arranging for books to be sent to Sofgoti's small children's library in a community centre. Here children, mostly AIDS orphans, could safely read books, do their homework and enjoy cultural activities.

Through David's continued commitment to Zimbabwe ABCA has not only sent books to Sofgtoi but also to various Zimbabwean schools in more remote areas where education facilities are very rudimentary.

David has also inspired his friend at Pearson Education Publishing to donate pallets of books to ABCA. David's enthusiasm for ABCA is infectious and his friend now volunteers to pack ABCA books as well.

David strongly believes in the power of education to provide a stepping stone to a better life. David points out that in Australia we are very privileged and do not realise how lucky we are to have access to so many books and educational materials He describes the satisfaction he experienced when he visited the Sofgoti library stocked with ABCA books:

“To see children enjoying reading books was heart-warming. The children would jostle to proudly read a book to me. They were so enthusiastic, and they have so little! The pleasure on their faces said it all.”



A photograph of three young children sitting at a wooden table outdoors, looking at an open book. The child on the left is wearing a dark grey hoodie. The child in the middle is wearing a pink hoodie and has an orange flower in her hair. The child on the right is wearing a dark blue hoodie with pink text that includes 'GIRLS' and 'LEA'. They are all looking intently at the book. The background shows a wooden structure and a view of mountains and trees under a clear sky.

THANK YOU

Zweledinga Informal Settlement in Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)

ABCA books were donated by the Union of Jewish Women to Ikhala Trust, who in turn gave the books to the library that was built at Zweledinga. Ashleigh runs extra classes in English (reading and writing) and Maths at the library for the children of Zweledinga every Sunday. Ashleigh was so impressed by the quality of the books that were donated!









Watch library video on our website

[Click here](#)



SAVE THE
DATES



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

11.00am - 1.00pm

SAVE THE DATES

ABCA BOOK PACKING DATES FOR 2023



ABCA

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Children of Africa Ltd

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