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PRESS RELEASE

More Porgera schools benefit from Rotary materials

PORT MORESBY, 26 APRIL, 2018, 1300HRS: Ten primary and elementary schools within the Porgera Valley have received educational materials and resources donated by Rotary Donations in Kind, Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), Northern region.

Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) through its Community Development Section distributed a total of 12,530 kilograms of Rotary materials during the month of March under its education and literacy program.

The distribution plan involved an average of between 40-50 cartoons of library books delivered to five elementary schools and five primary schools.

The elementary schools were Aumbi, Alipis, Mungulep, Top Yarik and Porgera SDA Elementary. Primary schools included Porgera Lutheran, Paiam, Mungulep, Kairik and Top Yarik Primary.

Additional items also included teacher and student chairs and tables, blackboards, school uniforms and filing cabinets.

PJV Community Development senior officer Mary Wanis said the donation was primarily a one off support to respective schools in the Valley that were host to displaced school children from Yarik following the school's closure a year ago.

Delivering items to the Porgera SDA Elementary at Porgera Station, Ms Wanis encouraged the younger children to get curious and learn as much as they can from books.

She reiterated that not a lot of schools in the country are privileged to receive such resourceful materials and advised both the school and students to look after the materials.

Elementary School Coordinator for Porgera District Susan Paraia was on site when the rotary items were being delivered to the SDA Elementary school.

A very delighted Mrs Paraia thanked PJV for the delivery and said the materials will be very useful for the children.

She also expressed that reading is yet to become a culture for young children in Papua New Guinea and teachers are still struggling in classrooms to get students to read.

Ms Wanis said schools have been very appreciative of the donation by PJV with the support of Rotary.

“Two schools have written back to thank PJV and we anticipate to receive more than you letters. One SML (Special Mine Lease) community responded by providing their own transport to bring the materials from site to the school location,” Ms Wanis said.

Some 3700 plus students in Porgera are said to benefit from these donation of resource materials.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”)– through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited – which owns 95 percent participating interest in the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV). The remaining 5% in PJV is owned by Mineral Resource Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

The Porgera Mine employs over 2,500 Papua New Guineans, and over the life of the mine has produced more than 20 million ounces of gold and contributed approximately 10% of PNG’s total annual exports.

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Aumbi Elementary school students with their books from Rotary. Ms Wanis is standing on the right.



Porgera SDA Elementary School students hold up some of the donated reading books from Rotary.

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