

Focus on children and the elderly

Sir Lowry's Pass Library

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Librarian

In February 2004 staff of Sir Lowry's Pass Library established that there were four crèches and two senior groups in their community.

Senior groups

Since April 2004 senior groups started to visit the library regularly to watch videos, or attend bookreadings by staff. Visitors also enjoyed a good meal or snacks provided by staff. Some of the senior citizens are so old they can hardly eat by themselves but they are assisted by nurses and volunteers. The Mission Grounds senior group consists of mainly ladies and always have a special task that they work on. All their handmade articles are sold and the proceeds donated to the soup kitchen in Sir Lowry's Pass. The Sun City senior group held a concert and their contribution also went to the soup kitchen. Both these groups visit the library once or twice a month.

Crèches

The crèches visit the library twice a month, and occasionally library staff pay them a visit to present a story hour. There are one English, two Afrikaans and one Xhosa speaking crèches. The children seem to enjoy their little outings to the library. Occasionally each child is given a small gift to take home to show that they were at the library.

Outreach to schools

They have tried to register all the students and have regular class visits, but only a few teachers made use of this opportunity. These visits turn the library visit into an educational experience for the students. They started off with a reading programme and are proud to say that some of the children's reading skills have improved. During school holidays combined programmes with the school were held on the school grounds. The children are very eager to make use of the library but due to limited space the library is easily overcrowded.

Conclusion

They trust that the relationship built with the various groups last year will grow and plan to improve on the services that they provide.

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△ An elderly group enjoying a cup of tea after a Bible reading in the activities room of Sir Lowry's Pass Library

◁ The large and spacious Sir Lowry's Pass Library