

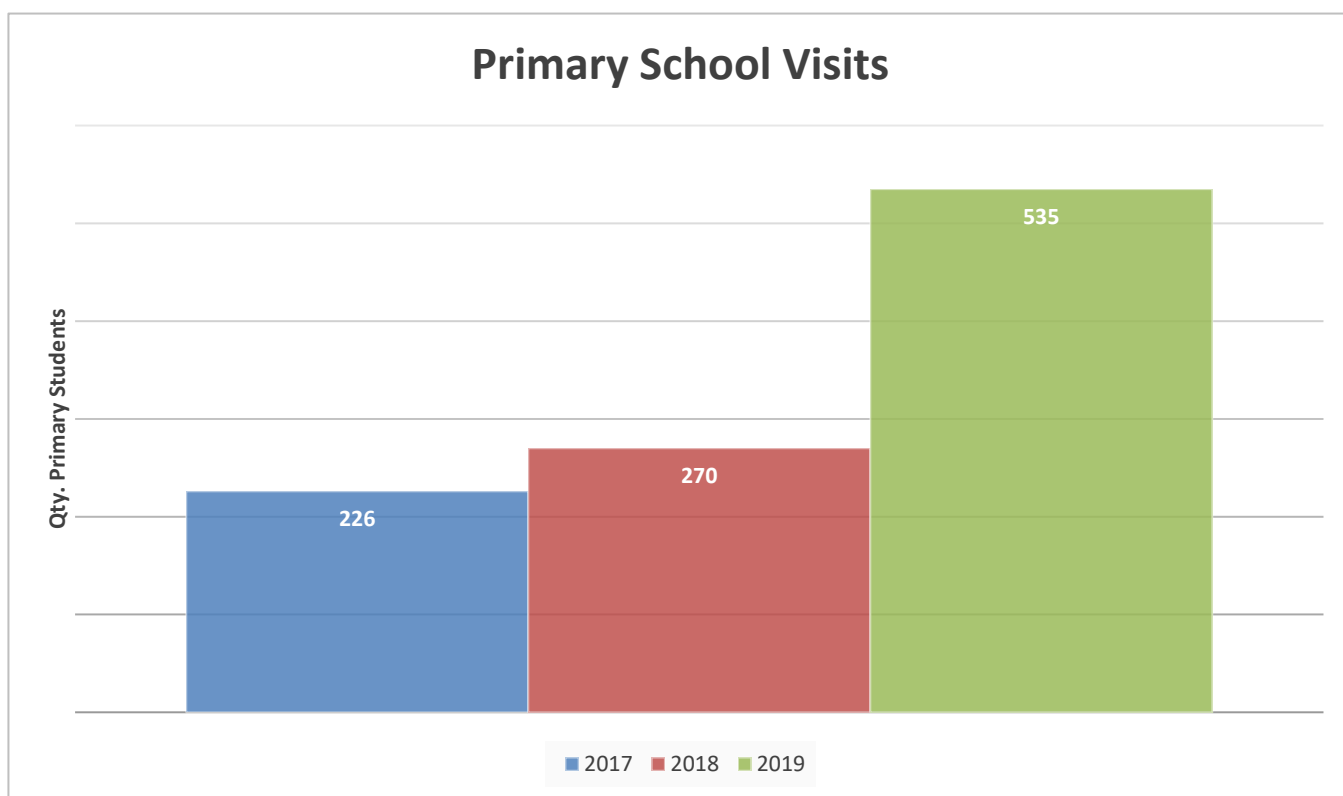
Students continue to use Mwaya Community Library

From the relatively small facility it once was, over the past few years the library has grown and now offers updated textbooks and many new novels and children’s books - much to the delight of the regular library users.

The library continues to be run by Burton and his assistants John and Vitu. During 2019 they recorded 3,037 borrowers visiting the library and 4,630 readers. This is 51 less than in 2018 but although less people visited, more books were borrowed. They lent out 4,631 books, an increase of 94 books being borrowed compared to 2018. The library team has also welcomed 125 new members too.

Since the introduction of school trips by Kapanda Secondary School students in late 2018, there continue to be regular visits to the library by these students. Although less students came during rainy season, there were 190 and 133 respectively during June and July which are the revision and examination months. In October 2019 there were 241 student visits to the library compared to 100 in 2018. During this month 390 secondary school textbooks were borrowed. Textbooks make up 67% of all books borrowed.

Secondary School student visit figures are similar to 2018 however, there has been an increase in primary students visiting the library. See chart below.



More primary school students are visiting since the introduction of Children's Corner. They are not just coming on the Saturday morning but throughout the week too. Children's Corner encourages youngsters from the community to come and read. They love looking at the pictures and discussing the story unfolding on the page, whilst a few are really starting to embrace reading books on their own. Run by Honess and Rebecca, they are hoping this project expands as more and more children want to learn to read.

Adult Education classes continue and whilst there are still some attending for basic literacy needs in the afternoons, there are now more Open School students coming during the day. Kapanda Community Day Secondary School runs not only Day School for those students selected by the government to attend secondary school but also runs Open School for those not selected but able to afford the school fees. Open School runs after Day School finishes at 14:00. Before this Open School students are welcome to attend extra lessons at the library, predominantly in English and Maths.

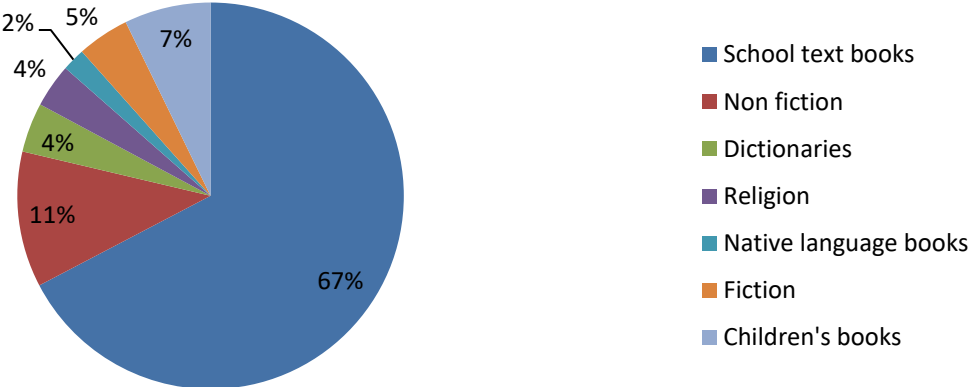
The locals continue to enjoy the local language books and the newspapers. It's astounding how many times a newspaper can be read. Men continue to be the main readers as they love reading about sport and looking at the job section. In March, 459 newspaper readers came to the library. There are still many members that also enjoy reading books at the library and not taking them home. April was a particular busy month with 159 book readers. The average is usually 71 readers.



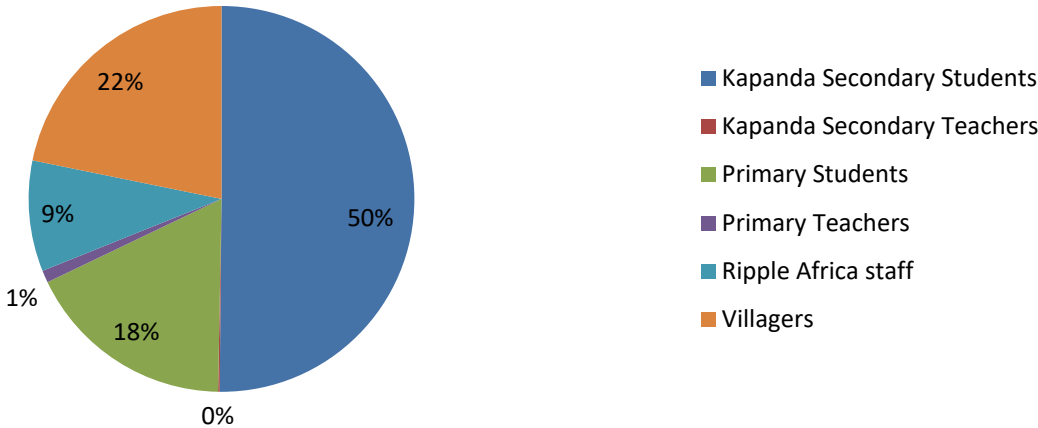
Top left: An adult education lesson in action; above: Secondary school students reading about Ripple Africa projects at the library; left: Honess with two of the Children's Corner readers.

The following pie charts illustrate the books borrowed in 2019, and the library users for 2018 and 2019.

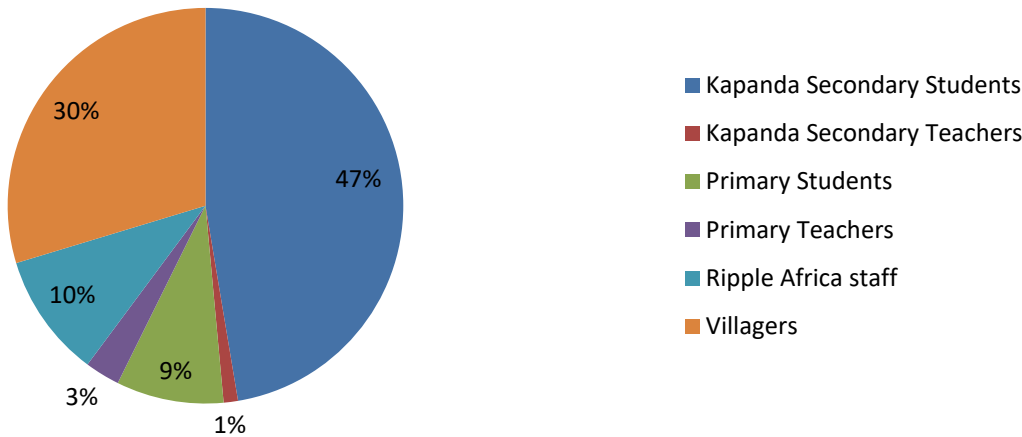
Types of books borrowed in 2019



Visitors for 2019



Visitors for 2018



We have noticed that Villager visits have declined over the past two years. Burton, John and Vitu have spoken with numerous library members and the general feeling is that there are not enough novels written by African authors - and it is these sorts of books that locals are keen to read.

We want to ensure all members of our library have access to the books they enjoy, and that the library reaches its full potential so Burton has supplied a list of books that they would be keen to have available for members to read. If you would like a copy of the list and to purchase any, please email info@rippleafrica.org

The Ripple Africa team would like to thank everyone supporting the library. You are helping to ensure it remains a great resource for the community.



Top left: John sorting through new school textbooks; top right: Secondary school students studying at the library
Bottom left: The Community Library; Bottom right: Children's Corner reader.

