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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Suspected book thefts force daylight donations only at Lifeline shed**

Anecdotal evidence that books donated to Lifeline have been stolen from the book collection shed at Gordon has forced the crisis support charity to call in police and lock up overnight.

“Sadly, that means books can only be deposited during daylight hours now,” said Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury’s CEO, Wendy Carver. “Gordon police have advised us to lock the shed at nightfall and, as back up, they’re doing random patrols.”

Stories about thefts first came to light when a person who had donated several cartons of books returned the next day to retrieve one of the boxes she’d had second thoughts about giving away.

Lifeline’s book collection van had just arrived at the shed and volunteers helped the donor search for the box. To no avail - it had disappeared.

“A few more stories emerged then from someone who frequently uses the council carpark after hours, where the shed is,” Mrs Carver said. “It’s always been kept open all hours so donors can come whenever it’s convenient for them. But it appears that people have been seen leaving the area with books they’ve clearly taken from the shed.

“We prefer to operate on a basis of trust – as we’ve always done in the past - but police have suggested that, for a while at least, we lock our shed overnight and advise our generous donors to drop off their books during daylight hours.”

Mrs Carver said people should not be deterred from making donations, but cautioned them to come on weekdays and weekends between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm.



Book fairs and sales are a major fundraiser for Lifeline’s Harbour to Hawkesbury volunteers, who are dedicated to providing books in top condition, as well as collectors’ items and special editions.

A big pre-Christmas sale – nothing over \$2 - is coming up the first weekend in December at the Lindfield Book Depot on the corner of Polding and Ignatius Roads, West Lindfield; and the first book fair of 2017 will be at The Concourse, Chatswood, in early February.

**Picture caption:** Daylight donations only, please: Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury’s CEO, Wendy Carver, at the book donations’ shed at Gordon, where reports of book thefts have cause an overnight lock-up policy.

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