



KARUNA SRI LANKA INC NEWSLETTER



A BIG DAY OUT! You helped to put smiles on the girl's faces.

Welcome everyone to our second Karuna Sri Lanka Newsletter. We publish a quarterly newsletter to keep you up to date with the progress we have made with your very generous donations.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

On the 7th October 2018 we held our 2nd AGM. It was good to look back over the year and see the progress we have made.

- The Karuna Sri Lanka Website and Facebook have been set up and are working well.
- Justin has been able to arrange 2 trips to visit the Yasodara Girl's Orphanage which he self-funded.
- Our financial position has improved greatly with the help of all your generous donations.

A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.

- We have been granted Charity and Public Benevolent Institution status by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. ***GREAT NEWS*** We can now offer a tax deduction for donations of \$2 and over from 27th October 2018. Unfortunately, we cannot offer this deduction to overseas donors, it is only available to Australian tax payers.
- The Committee was voted in and we welcome John Woods from England as a Committee Member. He was with Justin when he first went to visit the orphanage in 2013 and has been a great ambassador ever since.

The Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. 2018 Committee

President: *Justin Peacock* **Vice President:** *Allan Foote* **Secretary:** *Merle Nuber* **Treasurer:** *June Foote*

Committee: *Tim MacDonald, Thelma Martin, Katie Cresswell, John Woods (England).*

At the AGM we discussed our future goals and these include:

- Increase the number of children accommodated at the orphanage.
- Set up after school tutors.
- Organise more field trips.
- Look at ways to set up a Scholarship Fund for girls leaving the orphanage.
- Undertake larger repair/maintenance work jobs.

We know we will have to increase our donor base and hold fundraising events to achieve any of these goals but it is always good to look to the future and have something to work towards.

DONATIONS

The last few months have been excellent with new donors joining our team each month. Donations from overseas are working well and we even have *Pied-a-Terre*, a Michelin starred restaurant from England, assisting us with very generous donations on a monthly basis. As John and Justin will attest, their food is amazing so next time you're in London do treat yourselves!

The Free Town Trust Fund, another Non-Profit Organisation in England that raises money to help with worthwhile causes is run by Sarah and Ian. Justin has been in contact with them for a couple of years and they have also visited and assisted the orphanage with donations of food etc. They also sent us a very welcome donation when they knew Justin was going to visit Sri Lanka again.

GIVE NOW has become a very easy and cost-effective way for our **overseas donors** to process either a one-off or a regular monthly donation. We now have a Give Now donation button on our website which connects directly to their website.

PLEASE NOTE: Payments from overseas to Give Now can **only** be made through a Credit Card account.

Our donors in Australia are able to make payments **direct** to our bank account from their own Debit account or Credit Card with no transfer fees attached.

The Committee feels confident that we will finish 2018 on a **BIG HIGH** and this has only been possible with the very generous support of all our donors.

Learn more about us on:

www.karunasrilanka.com.au or Visit our [Facebook page](#) karuna sri lanka

OUR COMMITMENT

Our commitment to our Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. donors is that all money donated is used entirely for the support of our organisations in Sri Lanka. We are a volunteer run organisation and we do not use any of your donations for our running costs. These are met by Justin, our President, and other committee members.

Mr. Peter Jack has offered (free of charge to our organisation) to audit our accounts again this year.

We are required to submit audited accounts annually to the WA Associations governing body. Consequently, Peter's contribution is very much appreciated.

Our main sponsorship agreement is with Yasodara Girl's Orphanage in Galle, Sri Lanka but we also assist other small organisations in need. Justin also takes donated sporting equipment and uniforms to the Gintota Maya school which he and friends have supported for many years.

SPONSORSHIP

We are now in a good financial position to assist the Yasodara Girl's Orphanage with regular Sponsorship payments of \$1,000. The monthly cost of running the Orphanage is approximately \$2,000, so we hope, as more donors join, that we will be able to cover the full monthly sponsorship.

The orphanage Directors send receipts for the purchases they make with our sponsorship payment. This includes food, water, phone, electricity and the carer mothers' wages. When we give additional support, as mentioned below, we also require them to send receipts and photos of the goods purchased.

"Other ways we have been able to give the children a better life"

On 3rd July 2018 Justin set off for another trip to Sri Lanka where he was able to enjoy some time visiting Yasodara and seeing how the girl's lives are going. He also worked with the committee and carer mothers to provide much needed items to improve facilities and comfort at the home.



Rice cooker and gas cookers purchased during Justin's visit



Justin purchased 2 weeks' worth of groceries while he was there.



He also purchased and replaced light globes.



A bit of painting keeps the orphanage looking good.

A BIG DAY OUT!

One of the main aims the Karuna Committee discussed before this trip was to give the girls a fun day out - somewhere they had not been before. After numerous discussions with the Yasodara Committee and Sri Lankan Probation Board a decision was reached to take the girls to a waterslide park near the capital Colombo. To say the girls were excited was an understatement in fact some of them were up at 3am on the morning of the trip just to be ready! New appropriate bathing costumes were purchased by Karuna, a bus hired and all food and drinks were also provided.

The day went amazingly well from the 6am departure until the 9pm return and none of the girls had ever experienced such a place.



Waterslides, rollercoasters, dodgems, candy floss, basically all the things us lucky folk have done many times whilst growing up were enjoyed that day. The Yasodara Directors appreciated this very kind gesture and asked for their thanks to be passed on to all of you because the support you give makes it possible for us to give the children a day they will always remember.

We received a very generous donation from the Free Town Trust Fund in England which went towards making this day happen. Thanks Sarah and Ian for your continuing support.



John WOODS (known by many as Woodsy)



John was fantastic support when he accompanied Justin during his recent trip to Galle. The girls always enjoyed a game of cards with John and he also spent many hours assisting Justin with activities.

A Birthday Treat



During Justin's visit one of the young girls, Sanduni, had a birthday so Justin and John decided to make it a special day for her. They purchased a card, birthday cake and gift which Sanduni and the other girls, were thrilled to share. This gave John the idea to send a birthday card and gift to each child to celebrate their special day. He is organising this from England and we are sure the girls will now look forward to their birthday and receiving their very own card and gift from overseas. Thanks, John, for organising this very kind gesture, it will mean so much to the girls.



GINTOTA MAYA SCHOOL

Justin continues his contact with the Gintota Maya School where he has, in the past, and with the help of many friends, built cricket nets. Justin continues to pay for a cricket coach, but may regret this if any of the up and coming players one day end up beating Australia!



In fact, a previous coach at Gintota who Justin gave his first coaching appointment to is now coaching a girl's underage club.

And forget don't the Girl's!



The school Principal with their Trophies



Karuna has also assisted the girl's teams along the way by donating cricket equipment and the Australian women's team in Sri Lanka heard the story of Justin's efforts and also donated some of their national kit and uniforms!

One of the girls just made her debut for the Sri Lankan national women's team and hit the winning run.

If you have friends or relatives that you feel may be interested in reading this newsletter, donating, visiting our website or following us on Facebook please pass our details on.

Website: www.karunasrilanka.com.au (Donation form is available on this site.)

Facebook: Visit our [Facebook page](#) karuna sri lanka inc.

You can also contact Justin on 0423 169 328

Best Wishes to you all and thanks once again for your ongoing support. Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. would not exist without you.

And remember:

You helped to put smiles on the girl's faces.