



KARUNA SRI LANKA INC



Visits to orphanages

Welcome everyone to **Part 2** of our Karuna Sri Lanka Newsletter. In this newsletter we wish to continue news of our trip to Sri Lanka by the 4 members of our Committee – **Justin, Katie, John and June** in October/November 2019.

OUR AIM IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Introduce you to another Orphanage Katie and Justin visited in Kandy.
- To report on our visits to the 6 Orphanages where our girls now live after the Yasodara Orphanage closed.

Kandy Orphanage Visit

Tikiri Sevana, Kandy - Justin and Katie visited this orphanage in Kandy, a town in the hill country of central Sri Lanka. A friend of Justin's in Tasmania, Dave, was cared for in this orphanage until the age of 1 when he was adopted by an Australian couple in 1985. Dave and his partner, Trissa, now have a family of their own but he has never forgotten his start in life and they visited the orphanage for the first time 2 years ago. Dave and Trissa now have a lovely little girl and they have called her Sevana. This orphanage cares for 27 babies and toddlers up to 3 years old with only a matron and 2 mothers to look after them! The matron has worked there for over 15 years. Dave and Trissa donated some money they had fundraised on their daughters 1st birthday and asked Justin if he and Katie could visit the orphanage and



Tikiri Sevana Orphanage

find out what supplies would be helpful to purchase. They requested new pillows, pillowcases, food and medical supplies. Since we left Sri Lanka Sashi and her mother travelled to Kandy, purchased these items and delivered them to a very grateful matron. Hopefully we can continue to help this very needy orphanage. One of the main things they need is more staff to



help the matron. We cannot understand how only 3 staff can look after so many babies and toddlers!!! Justin is looking into how, or if, we can assist with funding to pay for another carer. This is a government run orphanage therefore it may be difficult to achieve this.



One of the bedrooms full of cots and mosquito nets hanging over them.

Orphanage Visits near Galle

Justin, John, Katie and Shashi set off in a minibus stopping along the way at supermarkets and shops to buy any goods that were needed by the 3 children's homes we were to visit on that day's round trip.

Canadapura Children's Village, Netolpitiya - Canadapura was the first of 6 children's homes we visited on our Sri Lankan trip.



Canadapura is set in the countryside on donated land and was founded by a monk who now lives in Canada where he fundraises around the clock to keep the home running. It is clean and well-kept and the children were very polite and friendly. We met with the kind matron and donated a large supply of rice, soy, dried goods and treats. We also met one of the former girls from the Yasodara Orphanage - Tilini who had been transferred there when Yasodara closed.

Canadapura has a big emphasis on education and it was great to see the progress made by Tilini in her results and english speaking lessons. One of the concerns for the home was security of the children and together we discussed the possibility of getting security grills made and fitted to all the windows.



We have received pricings on this and will be looking to help fund this important project soon.

Still Waters Children's Orphanage, Tangalle - After leaving Canadapura we drove a short distance to be warmly greeted at the Still Waters Children's Orphanage. This home has both girls and boys and receives funding from overseas donors. It was a basic but clean home



and we met all of the children and gave out treats to them in the dining room and were lucky enough to meet another former Yasodara girl, Ishara. The matron informed us she is top of her class in school and has a bright future ahead if she continues to study hard. Ishara will be turning 18 soon and will return to the family



village so we will commit to helping her move on to higher education and hopefully good job prospects. She was also very happy to see Shashi as they were close for a long time when Shashi worked at Yasodara. We donated some toys and food items to the home and look forward to visiting next time.

After waving goodbye we drove on through tough traffic for 2 hours to visit the Matara Buddhist Ladies Orphanage

Matara Buddhist Ladies Orphanage, Matara – Matara is a very busy town and major bus centre for locals and travellers. Luckily the children’s home is safely tucked away behind high walls and is a heritage colonial building. A big society of local people help to fund the home and they rely on donations. Even though it is an older building the children are well provided for.



Again, we donated food items plus clothing given by our donors and enjoyed a cup of tea and tour with the head matron. We again met a girl that Justin and John have



known for some time - Sanduni. she was very happy to see us as she has been alone here for some time, there were tears as well as laughs as I do not think she thought she would see us again. Sanduni is as quiet as a mouse but is an amazing artist and loves making craft items as well.

We brought some new clothes and Shashi has since been back to visit all the girls at the various homes and they now know we are all here for them even if no one else is.

June had now arrived in Galle and joined us on the remainder of our orphanage visits.

D.P. Wijesinghe Orphanage, Benthot It was quite a long trip to this orphanage. On the way we stopped for Shashi, Justin and Katie to purchase food which the Matron had requested.



June with the Matron after donating food and gifts.

When we arrived, Shashi introduced us to the Matron. They were very pleased with our donations of the food and pillowcases they needed. Justin, Katie, John and June gave a pillowcase to each of the girls



Shashi and Katie with loaded trolleys

which they enjoyed as it gave them the opportunity to briefly

chat with the girls. The items we donated are written in a book and we were given a copy which is good and keeps a record for us even though it is written in sinhala!! The girls were in the orphanage uniform and they sang to us before we departed.

We were able to meet Pradeepa who was very excited to see Shashi, Justin and John. The matron took us on a tour of the orphanage and this gave us the opportunity to meet some of the other girls living there. The matron explained that they have extra classes after school which included, among other things - english, maths, science and dancing to assist them find good jobs when they leave at the age of 18.

HSCV Children Village Weligama – We visited this orphanage just in time for the children travelling home from school so we were able to follow the bus with the girls waving madly out of the back window.



Kaveesha, our girl from Yasodara, was very pleased to see us. Shashi has visited this orphanage before therefore she knew the Director and Matron quite well. The matron was able to pick out some clothes from the donations by Steve and Fiona.

We also donated food which we had purchased on our way there. It is always good to check with the matron and ask what items they are in need of for the children.



Matron choosing donated clothes with Shashi



On our tour we were shown a sewing centre where the girls can learn to make clothes which we were very impressed with.

Children's Corner Orphanage - This is a private orphanage with excellent conditions.



The matron was very pleased with our donations of food.

Maheesha, our girl from Yasodara, was very surprised and happy to see us. She was able to show us around this very well-kept orphanage and

we were asked to sit in on one of the after school english classes where we were given a cup of tea while Justin, John and I each sat at one of the small desks!! The matron explained that they have numerous classes for the girls after school including spoken english and maths plus advanced level classes held outside the orphanage.



While Justin and Shashi were talking to the matron, they learnt that the German sponsors were not able to support them any longer and the orphanage may have to close. This would be very sad because it is giving the girls such a good start in life. Justin is looking into how



we can possibly assist them. Sponsorship of the full monthly amount is beyond our financial commitment as we have so many other projects, we wish to continue with but if we could help in some way it would be great.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Since our return from Sri Lanka. - We are now funding swimming lessons and Shashi is checking the cost of computer classes which we will tell you about in our next Newsletter after Justin returns from his next trip in April 2020.

DONATIONS

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.

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.

We are always seeking more donors to assist us in our efforts to continue our work. 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. OR 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.

Please remember:

You helped to put smiles on the children's faces!!