



KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Every month we take food and a gas bottle to Moravinna Girls Orphanage.

Welcome everyone to our latest newsletter. In this edition we wish to bring you the following news:

Meet the girls living in our Safe House

Meet Christl our new volunteer in Sri Lanka

News of our Vice-President, John Woods, on his recent visit to Sri Lanka.

Update on Maheesha and Dileka.

Fundraising activities.

Notification of our AGM.

MEET THE GIRLS LIVING AT OUR “SAFE HOUSE”



Piyuma, Sathya, Ishara and Sanduni celebrating Sathya's birthday. John always buys a birthday cake to celebrate their special day.

All the girls lived at the Yasodara orphanage when Justin first volunteered there in 2012. With the assistance of James Floyd, a portion of your donations fund renting the safe house, their livings costs, food and education expenses.



PIYUMA is studying for her “A” levels and Karuna provides the financial aid for her to continue her studies. She also wishes enrol at university to study law and move to South Korea as a lawyer. With this goal in mind, we are funding classes in Korean for her. Piyuma also attended bakery classes with Sathya and she has a part-time job in the bakery when not studying.

Piyuma is very outgoing and often likes to play jokes on the other girls. She is very close to Saduni as they are both still studying together.



SATHYA is studying for her maths “A” level again. Maths is a hard exam to pass in Sri Lanka and is a requirement for advancement in many areas. For Sathya to reach her goal to study nursing she must have “A” level maths. We are funding a tutor to assist Sathya achieve her goal. She is also studying for english O levels.

She attended a bakery course with Piyuma which she really enjoyed and this skill helped her to successfully get a small part-time job at the café with Ishara.

Sathya is Piyuma’s elder sister.

Sathya has a quiet, caring nature and would do well in nursing.



ISHARA is working hard studying for her entrance exam to university. She wishes to study law. Ishara also has a part-time job in a café which she enjoys. The part-time work allows her to study and attend classes.

Ishara is quite shy therefore working in the café gives her confidence and is a good place to advance her english speaking.



SANDUNI is also studying for her "A" levels. She loves art and has produced some amazing paintings. Art is one of her favourite subjects and we have found an art teacher to advance these skills. She is also very good at needlework and made some lovely items when she lived at the orphanage.

Sanduni has a quiet nature and enjoys the friendship of the other girls, especially Piyuma. She has not decided what she wishes to do after her "A" levels exams but we feel she will want to further her art skills.

Christl - our volunteer in Sri Lanka.

Christl met John earlier this year, and was interested in the work we are doing in Sri Lanka. She asked if she could help the girls in any way and suggested she could be a mentor, helping the girls to give them confidence and offer advice on how to protect themselves if they needed to as she had benefited from a course earlier in her life and she was willing to write a program and work with the girls.

The girls met Christl at Ishara's 21st Birthday party and they got on very well. She thought cooking was a good way to get to know each other in a relaxed way.



*Sathya, Sanduni and Piyuma
cooking with Christl*

John took Shashi and some of the girls to meet Christl in her home and they enjoyed cooking food together. Christl has now commenced the program which we are sure the girls will find beneficial.



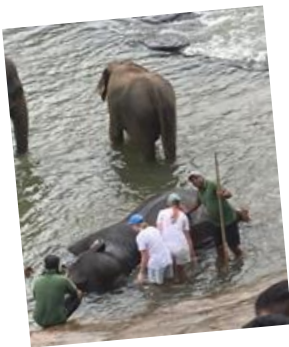
Sanduni preparing the dough.

John Woods our Vice-President visited Sri Lanka in August. He was accompanied by his sister, Val, his brother-in-law David and their daughters, Fauve and Frankie.

(As per our rules, any committee member visiting Sri Lanka pay for their own flights, accommodation and expenses)

They had a great holiday sightseeing and meeting some of our girls and co-ordinators, Jayani and Shashi who always enjoy John's visit and this time meeting his family. The girls especially enjoyed the company of Fauve and Frankie who are of a similar age.

John took his family on a day trip to an elephant park and invited some of the girls to join them. It was a great day where they saw some amazing sights and had lots of fun.



Thanks for funding this trip, John



Dileka and Ageesha enjoyed the beach with Fauve and Frankie



Playing cards was a fun pastime.



A visit to Moravinna Girls Orphanage was a great experience for John's family.

MAHEESA



Maheesha the traditional dancer

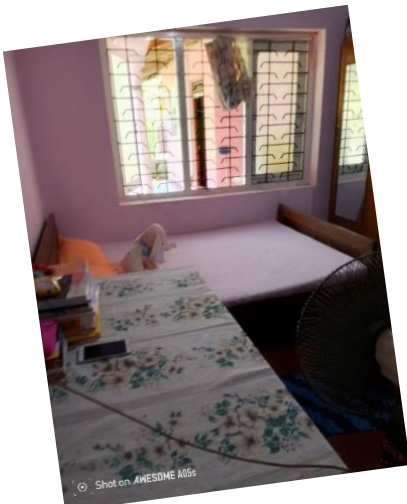


Maheesha (3rd from left)



Maheesha on the right.

Traditional dancing is very important in Sri Lanka. Maheesha is a very talented dancer and was chosen to take part in a traditional dance called “wes” which was performed before a large audience at the Prefect Badge giving ceremony. It was a big honour for Maheesha to be invited to perform and we are very proud of her success.



The room where Maheesha lives



Maheesha, the school girl.



The room is well furnished and comfortable.

Maheesha lives at a very good boarding house in Galle which we fund to enable her to attend school. We also fund the school fees and travel with the assistance of The Free Town Charity in England. They donate monthly towards the school fees which is very much appreciated.

Maheesha has been presented with a prefect's badge at the special school ceremony where she also performed. Her sister, Chamodi was very proud to attend the ceremony.

DILEKA

Dileka is a little ray of sunshine, she is always smiling, hardworking and has a very caring nature.

Dileka has completed a 6-month Hospitality and Chef training course with amazing results. She has a placement to start training under an international chef and after a tough upbringing the future is looking very bright for her.

We are all very proud of her.



Looks delicious



Fundraising activities

During a long stay at their favourite caravan park, Barn Hill, in the north of Western Australia, our treasurer, June, has been busy raising much needed funds for our charity.

A Raffle and charity stall held every Sunday at the small craft market in the caravan park was a great success. Brenda, a close friend, had the amazing knack of selling raffle tickets to visitors and regular campers each week. Many of the prizes were hand-crafted and had been donated by very generous friends wishing to help our charity. Jenny, a big supporter donated beautiful hand crocheted rugs, beanies, scarves and slippers. These gifts certainly helped us to raise so much money in the raffles and on the charity stall where we sold books and other items which had been donated.



*June and Brenda
at the raffle stall*

Sukitha Orphanage - When June visited the orphanage in March, she purchased some of the items they make at the vocational centre shop. These items were sold on the charity stall and the money raised will be sent to Sukitha to enable them to purchase more materials.



Moshka loves sewing



*Making bath mats which
sell very quickly*



The men enjoy sewing too.

Qi Gong - Monday to Friday Jenny, a close friend, runs a Qi Gong (form of tai chi) class for anybody in the park to join in. There can often be up to 30 people some days enjoying an hour of relaxation and stretching to music in the open air. Jenny just asks for a small donation and she very generously uses our charity tin to collect the donations. Visitors have been amazingly generous and interested in our charity. We have produced a leaflet which gives information about Karuna and visitors were able to take one if they wished to. June attended each class and regularly thanked everyone for their kind donations.



Totals raised from June to September amounted to:

Raffles and charity stall - \$1,754.10

Qi Gong - \$2,003.35 Thanks, Jenny for this amazing total.

Giving a huge total of \$3,757.45

KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20th OCTOBER 2024

We will be holding our AGM by Zoom due to having Committee Members living in Tasmania,
Perth, Western Australia and England.

If you wish to join us, please contact Justin on +61 423 169 328 or our Secretary, Sarah by email:

Sarahjones1997@hotmail.com and she will forward the zoom link and time of the meeting
depending on where you live. (Please state where you live in your email).

WHY NOT JOIN US ON THE COMMITTEE?

We are always interested in welcoming new members with new ideas and enthusiasm to join
our team.

If you are interested and wish to know more details, have a chat with our President
Justin on +61 423 169 328.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter.

*If you have any friends or relatives, you think may be interested in our work, please pass this
newsletter on. We are always hoping for more regular donors to join our team. Even a
regular donation of \$10 per month would be gratefully received.*

There are different ways we are able to receive much needed donations.

**THE PAYPAL GIFT FUND does not deduct fees from any donations therefore all proceeds are
received by the charity.**

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 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.

DIRECT TO OUR BANK 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.

Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. – Westpac Bank

BSB: 036-044 Account No: 339-908

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

You help to put smiles on the children's faces and improve their health and education opportunities!

Sri



One of the handbags made at Sukitha Orphanage. June received an order for 3 of these and Justin will pick them up in November when he visits Lanka.

