



## KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.

### SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our 2nd newsletter of 2025.

Hi everyone, we have had a very busy time since our last newsletter in May and we wish to share this news with you.

#### The British Way English Academy

Piyuma and Sanduni attended their Graduation Ceremony at the British Way English Academy where they enjoyed celebrating their success and receiving a well earned Graduation Certificate.

We have been able to give this great opportunity to 6 of our young ladies.



Piyuma



Sanduni

#### BIRTHDAY CAKES ARE ALWAYS SPECIAL

Our Vice-Chairman, John Woods continues to give our girls a special treat on their birthday by arranging for a birthday cake to be delivered. Piyumi and Bhagya were very happy to receive this very kind gift.



## **BEAUTIFUL BAGS MADE BY THANUJA**

**Thanuja is working very hard to establish her home-based sewing business and we feel she is on a winner with these gorgeous bags.**



**Thanuja's son, Senal is a great advert for his mum's products.**

June and Kay (Committee Members) are visiting Sri Lanka in November and will be purchasing a selection of bags to sell in Australia. We will let you know when they are available to purchase. All funds received will be returned to Thanuja



## **Maheesha our very talented dancer**



Maheesha is continuing her studies at school and her goal is to be a dancing teacher and to continue with traditional dancing.

These are certificates that Maheesha received for dancing. She won 1st place in the All-Island competition which is a great achievement.





## **We now have 2 young ladies attending University**

**Ishara** is commencing this month at NSBM Green University near Colombo. She is studying BM (Honours) in Business Analytics. It has always been



Ishara's goal to attend University. We are so happy to be able to assist with university fees and accommodation to achieve this goal and we could not do this without your very generous donations.



NSBM Green University



Ishara has always worked hard; she was delighted to receive her first donated computer and mobile phone many years ago and since then has continued to study with this goal in mind.



Inauguration - the commencement of Ishara's goal

## **A great success story for Ishara and Karuna.**

**Ageesha** is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year at university, and has achieved a great deal. She is currently researching the Sri Lanka drugs prevention policy and requested Karuna to assist with paying half of the fees for an 8-week course to assist with her research. We agreed to this request, especially as this could lead to Ageesha achieving an internship with this organisation in her last semester.

We are delighted to say when Ageesha completed the course she has been accepted for this internship which will commence in her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This is a huge achievement and it displays what Karuna is all about. Giving girls, now young ladies, the opportunity to achieve their goals in life from a less than privileged start. Our donors should be proud to have been part of this journey; we could not have achieved this without you.



We have been assisting the Moravinna Orphanage in many ways



*The Old toilet needed replacing*



*New toilet delivered by Shashi on their monthly visit*



*New toilet installed*



*We also supply food and refill a gas bottle every month*

**With the assistance of The Free Town Trust in England we have been able to buy new shoes for the girls.**



*These shoes have seen better days!!*



*Shashi was happy to deliver new shoes for everyone.*



**Inushi** has lived at Moravinna Children's Home for many years as she has no family. Justin received this request from the head matron which he shared with our committee

*One girl, Inushi, has started a course on graphic designing at the local youth centre. As Inushi is 18 years old now, with the approval of the probation board we got her enrolled in this course as she is good in art work and has chosen it for her future. Although we do not keep girls over 18, we made a special concession for her as she has no home to go to and she is the most reliable and supportive girl in the home. She needs a mobile phone as all messages and information are sent to the phones of the girls who are following classes. I would be very grateful if you can get a basic smart phone for her day-to-day work.*

*Thank you and best regards, Priyantha*

Fauve (18 years old), our youngest committee member, after reading this request organised a fundraiser at school and collected pre-loved mobile phones for Karuna. The matron was very happy to present Inushi with one of the phones.  
(Unfortunately, we are unable to show a photo of Inushi receiving the phone as government regulations restrict us from taking individual photos of girls who live in an orphanage)

### **Something new for the girls**

The girl's hygiene is very important to us. They have never used period pants before and Sarah, one of our committee members in England decided to purchase a quantity in different sizes for the girls.



Shashi delivering the period pants.



## Shashi and the girls enjoy visiting Bhashini

We like to keep in touch with Bhashini who lived in the Yasodara orphanage. Shashi and the girls are able to visit her on the way to the Moravinna Orphanage and deliver some food.



On one monthly visit we asked Shashi to take Bhashini shopping for clothes which was a big surprise and Bhashini was very grateful.

Bhashini's little girl, Manulya, always enjoys checking out the food we buy as there is usually a treat of chocolate for her.

## NETBALL IS GOING WELL

The U/15 netball team that Jayani, one of our co-ordinator's, coaches won this tournament. The uniforms donated by the Wembley netball club a few years ago are still looking great.

June and Kay will be taking more uniforms and netballs donated by the Padbury netball club together with the ball bags they donated when they visit Sri Lanka in November 2025.



## A Cricket team ready for battle





## GINTOTA SCHOOL CRICKET TEAM TAKES PART IN

### "BATTLE OF THE YELLOWS"



*Our Vice-President, John Woods and Co-ordinator, Jayani were invited to take part in supporting the Gintota team. (red caps)*



We have funded a cricket coach and assistant coach at the Gintota High School for over 10 years. This year they were invited to take part in an inaugural match against another High School in Galle which was played at the famous

#### *Galle Cricket Stadium.*

This was an amazing experience for the team and Karuna was pleased to assist with accommodation for the coach and team to stay together in Galle. *John and Jayani were the guests of honour representing Karuna and they presented the trophies after the match.*

This year Gintota were runners-up BUT next year watch out, we hope they will achieve winning the trophy.



*John enjoyed showing his support*



## NEWS OF AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT

We have been busy working with Tamara Speldewinde since meeting up with her in Galle during June's visit to Sri Lanka in March 2025. Tamara had met Justin when she visited the Yasodara Orphanage where Justin was volunteering improving the orphanage building many years ago. Since then, they have kept in touch and Tamara has followed the growth of our charity.

Tamara met all the young girls living at Yasodara therefore when she visited Galle, she contacted Justin to ask if she could renew her friendship with the girls in the safe house, Ishara, Sathya, Piyuma and Sanduni together with Shashi. June and Jayani also joined the group and they all enjoyed a meal together as Tamara chatted to the girls about their hopes for the future.

It was after this that Tamara was introduced to the **Frangipani Pre-school** and, as we often say the rest is history. We know you will enjoy reading about this very exciting new project.

### Creating a Legacy of Love, Learning & Community

Location: Remote village near Galle, Sri Lanka

Lead Partner: Tamara Speldewinde

Supported by: Karuna Sri Lanka Inc



Tamara visited the Frangipani Pre-School, a small but vital early learning space built after the tsunami, supporting pre-school children from nearby villages.

Open only three and a half hours a day, the school has long faced challenges:

- The building is in urgent need of **structural repairs and upgrades**
- The children require **nutritious meals and educational resources**
- The school needs support to continue delivering meaningful early childhood education



And so began [@ Project Frangipani](#) - a vision rooted in legacy, led with compassion, and powered by community.

Tamara and the Karuna Sri Lanka team are working tirelessly to organise the following projects:

### Infrastructure & Rebuild Plans

- An **independent structural report** has been completed
- A **follow-up assessment** is scheduled for mid-August by a visiting Australian engineer
- A nearby **temporary school site** is under review to ensure learning continuity during works
- Existing **play equipment is being assessed** for urgent upgrades



### Multilingual Reading Corner & Cultural Exchange

- Work is underway to establish a **Reading Corner** with books in **Sinhalese, Tamil, and English**
- A **Melbourne-based kindergarten** is exploring a **cultural exchange** partnership with Frangipani

### English Language Program

- Planning is underway to introduce **weekly English classes** to empower children with vital language and literacy skills, opening doors to future opportunities

### A Call to Keep Building

The Australian dollar stretches far in Sri Lanka — and **every cent counts**. Donations directly support Frangipani Pre-School's facilities, programs, and student wellbeing.

If you've already submitted your **2025 tax return** and are expecting a refund, now is a wonderful time to give back.


### If you wish to support to this new project please donate:

**DIRECT TO OUR BANK ACCOUNT:**

**Westpac Bank - Karuna Sri Lanka Inc.**

**BSB: 036-044    Account No: 339-908** or  [www.givenow.com.au/KarunaSriLanka](http://www.givenow.com.au/KarunaSriLanka)

(Please reference "**Frangipani Pre-School**" when donating and email [karunasrilanka3@gmail.com](mailto:karunasrilanka3@gmail.com) with your details to enable a receipt to be sent.)

 All donations over \$2 are 100% tax-deductible for Australian Tax payers. Karuna Sri Lanka covers the charity administration costs, ensuring that every dollar goes directly to the project.

## A BIG THANK YOU

*We trust you have enjoyed reading about our work in Sri Lanka. Your kind donations are very important to keep expanding our charity.*

*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 support our small charity. Even a regular donation of \$10 per month would be gratefully receive*

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

### **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**

Please email [karunasrilanka3@gmail.com](mailto:karunasrilanka3@gmail.com) or message our Treasurer, June Foote 0417 553 320 with your name, email address, date sent and donation amount. This will enable June to confirm your donation has been received and forward a receipt to you. **PLEASE NOTE: Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible for Australian tax payers.**

**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 included 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.

### **AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:**

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