



2024 – 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Karuna Sri Lanka Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

Our mission

1. Provide monetary support for ongoing running costs and expenses to organisations working for the benefit of children in the Galle and the Southern province area of Sri Lanka. This includes improvements and maintenance of buildings.
2. Provide ongoing financial and individual support to the children once they have left these organisations that includes tertiary education expenses, employment opportunities, accommodation and improving their living conditions.
3. Improve education facilities and English language teachings.

Our vision

To improve the quality of life and future opportunities of underprivileged children in Southern Sri Lanka.



Gintota school cricket team takes part in 'Battle of the Yellows', played at the famous Galle Cricket Stadium. Our Vice President, John was invited to attend.

Our history

On 26 December 2004, the Boxing Day Tsunami claimed the lives of around 230,000 people across 14 countries. Sri Lanka was one of the hardest hit nations – almost 40,000 lives were lost there alone. This resulted in many families losing their main provider, or children finding themselves without parents altogether.

In 2012, while on holiday in Sri Lanka to watch the T20 Cricket World Cup, Australian carpenter Justin Peacock's life was changed when he was introduced to the Yasodara Orphanage and Children's home.

Returning in 2013, he spent four self-funded months using his handyman skills to improve and restore the buildings and grounds at Yasodara. As he came to know the staff and children's needs better, items such as school uniforms, clothing, kitchen utensils, computer equipment and toys were sourced to improve life at the orphanage.

Justin also developed a strong relationship with Gintota Maya School, which had been destroyed by the tsunami and, while since being rebuilt, was lacking any kind of sporting facilities. Justin conducted cricket coaching clinics, built a cricket training pitch and hired a permanent cricket coach for the students. On following visits, the same was achieved for the school's netball department.

After posting some pictures of his work and life experiences in Sri Lanka on social media, his friends, family – and even total strangers – were taken with his efforts and began offering donations to further help with his charity work.

Justin often returns to Galle in southern Sri Lanka to deliver donated clothes, toys and sporting equipment, and spend time assisting with repair jobs to Yasodara and the Gintota Maya school.

When a dedicated group of like-minded people located in Australia, the UK and Sri Lanka began helping Justin, he formed the registered charity, Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. (hereafter called Karuna). Many of the committee members over the years have also been to Sri Lanka on numerous occasions to deliver donations and visit the girls we support as well as visiting the various orphanages and schools.

With the passing of Yasodara's previous major sponsor in 2016, the Karuna team committed to providing ongoing funds to cover the monthly running costs, including utilities, food, clothing and wages for the matrons and schooling for the girls.

Karuna became an incorporated not-for-profit organisation in 2017 and was granted DGR (deductible gift recipient) status in 2018.

In 2018 the Yasodara Orphanage was closed following a dispute among the local Sri Lankan committee that was trusted with running the orphanage by the Sri Lankan Government's Probation Board. It was a sad turn of events for the children, and Karuna had to act quickly to maintain contact with the girls.

Since that time, some of the girls have found a new home at other orphanages. While some of the older girls returned to their families, others have been living in a safe house funded by Karuna or are attending training institutions or university and are boarding nearby.

Having built relationships with the girls over so many years, Karuna now concentrates on ensuring the girls have their basic needs covered and receive a minimum level of education. Needs are different for each of them, so Karuna employed a former trusted staff member of the orphanage, Shashi Roland, to coordinate these efforts locally. Shashi has been doing outstanding work and her existing friendship with the girls has been a great advantage in our continued effort to support the girls.

To manage the safe house, as well as maintaining contact and providing support to younger girls still living in orphanages, Karuna then employed a second local staff member, retired Gintota Maya school teacher Jayani Abeydeera. Justin and Jayani have been friends for many years, and Jayani had previously supported Karuna on an ad hoc basis.

With the help of these two coordinators and Karuna committee members, we are able to successfully utilise the wonderful donations received from our sponsors and regular donors each year, whether financial or donated goods.



*One of the many visits by some of our committee members,
John, Val and Fauve plus other family members*

SECTION 1 – AN OVERVIEW OF KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.

About us

We are a group of people who care.

Inspired by Justin's story and his passion to help others, we come together as a committee to support this project by managing day-to-day tasks and ensuring all legal obligations are met.

Not only do we all contribute on a voluntary basis, we also ensure that all administration costs are covered by us personally, so that every cent donated goes to our beneficiaries.

Our people

2024-2025 committee:

- Justin Peacock (President)
- John Woods (Vice President)
- Lynda Jane (Secretary)
- June Foote (Treasurer)
- Katie Cresswell (Committee Member)
- Kay Coates (Committee Member)
- Valerie Woods (Committee Member)
- Sarah Parry (Committee Member)
- Fauve Woods-Moore (Committee Member)

Employees:

- Shashi Roland (Local Coordinator in Galle, Sri Lanka)
- Jayani Abeydeera (Local Coordinator in Galle, Sri Lanka)

Our supporters

In the 2024-2025 financial year Karuna received donations from 41 different donors located in Australia, the UK, and other European countries. Of the donors 21 were regular donors in Australia, 6 regular donors overseas, 13 one-off donors, and one not-for-profit organisation in England.

Donations are received directly into the Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. bank account, via the GiveNow portal, or via PayPal Gift Fund.

In the lead up to trips to Sri Lanka, other potential donors (e.g. sporting groups, businesses etc.) are approached, usually for one-off donations, often of an in-kind nature. As we become more well known, we are often gifted with many other donated items to deliver to the children and girls.

SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE

President's report

From humble beginnings, where our main aim was just to provide shelter, food and safety to those children and families that needed it, we have now had a year where some of our greater hopes and dreams of the girls studying towards a better life and attending higher education have been achieved. In short, the future looks very positive for a lot of these young ladies. We are also now helping to form the foundations for a better life for another generation with our increased support of Moravinna Girls' Home.

With two young ladies now completing university degrees, one becoming a trained chef working in a high-end resort, a young mother with a seamstress business, another young student completing her A levels and now on the verge of dance school, and three of our safe house residents all heading to vocational study next year, we are proud to say that our patience and encouragement are finally showing rewards.

These are just some of the notable achievements over the last 12 months and it would not be possible without continued support from our wonderful donors and sponsors who continue to be involved and enjoy seeing the progress made. Over the past 12-18 months it has also been encouraging to see the increase in donors with Sri Lankan heritage. They are finding Karuna and appreciate our simple wish to assist with education and empowerment in their mother country. I'd also like to personally thank Val and David Moore who run a fine dining restaurant in London who continue to honour their pledge of a regular table donation towards the girls' education and future.

Our Karuna committee has also gained some lovely new members this year, which provides more new ideas and insight and can only improve our assistance in the long run. Lynda, who took over as secretary after last year's AGM, has settled very nicely into her role and has also assisted greatly in improving our online services with the website. Kay, Val and Fauve have also been so helpful in their first year onboard. With our average age of the committee being way too high to print here, Fauve, who has just completed her A levels in high school, has provided some wonderful insights, helping shape our decision-making. Of course, John our Vice President and June our Treasurer both do a powerhouse of work in their roles and regular visits to Sri Lanka. Karuna could not run without them, together with Sarah's ongoing support to both Karuna and Freetown and Katie's very sound advice behind the scenes. I thank you all for your kindness in volunteering to make Karuna a positive and successful charity and environment.

Our two co-ordinators Shashi and Jayani continue to provide invaluable assistance on the ground in Sri Lanka and alongside our regular visits by our committee members, they all make our ideas possible.

While we are often busy in the present with the day to day running of Karuna, we do keep one eye on future projects and have begun to assist with a small preschool called Frangipani. Like Moravinna, it is another generation of children coming through that we can support and hopefully provide better opportunities in life. An example of this is our continued support of the cricket program at Gintota. From their beginnings with no training ground, equipment or coach 10 years ago, to this year playing in the inaugural battle of the yellow cricket match against another school at the Galle international stadium. The match was televised, and John was able to attend as a guest of honour –

as they say – from little things, big things grow. As we are witnessing, over the last 12 months, life-changing outcomes can occur with care, compassion and perseverance. I sincerely hope the next 12 months continues on the upward curve which has followed from our beginnings all those years ago, and I thank everyone for their continued support.

Justin Peacock
President

Structure and management

Karuna is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and has deductible gift recipients (DGR), GST concession and income tax exemption status.

- Incorporation number: A1021782W
- Australian Business Number (ABN): 33 644 180 262

Objectives, activities and outcomes for the 2024-2025 financial year

Objective 1
Support children beyond childhood (e.g. tertiary education and career opportunities), to enable them to ultimately support themselves.
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment continues to be on an as-needed basis as the girls embark on employment and tertiary education opportunities. • A number of girls have been provided with more suitable accommodation and supported in their tertiary or vocational training courses. • Organised ongoing English and computer classes. • Cricket coaching at Gintota Maya School continues to be supported by Karuna with additional support provided to players that are selected to play at higher levels.
Objective 2
Support girls with basic hygiene needs.
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued distribution of Karuna Care Kits, which are sourced locally. • Provision of period pads and underwear by Freetown Trust • Continuous funding of all required hygiene products for the girls living in our funded boarding houses.

Objective 3
Widen scope to support individuals/families in need, with the objective to improve their living conditions and enable future independence (major projects).
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of financial assistance to Bhagya and her husband to enable them to build a shop at the side of their house. • Provision of various equipment to improve living and/or working conditions such as a new gas stove for Tikiri; water purifier and new toilet for Moravinna. • Provide medication and medical assistance to children where required. • Assisting Thanuja in setting up her sewing business with provision of an overlocker and laptop. • Funding and on ground support to assist the upgrade of Frangipani pre-school.
Objective 4
Provide donors and sponsors with regular information on what their contributions have achieved, thereby keeping the charity accountable.
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular distribution of e-newsletters to donors and sponsors, providing updates on how the funds are invested and how the children and young adults are tracking. • Updates published on the Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. Facebook page as newsworthy information is obtained. Some updates are translated to the organisation's website.
Objective 5
Frequent travel to Sri Lanka by committee members to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster relationships with the local coordinators, the girls, and their carers • deliver many donated goods • gain first-hand knowledge of the environment and requirements of the girls and the places we support • build new relationships such as with the Frangipani pre-school.
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many committee members have travelled to Sri Lanka on several occasions during the 2024-2025 financial year to foster relationships. • Delivery of a range of donated goods including mattresses, cricket and netball gear, toys, clothes, laptops, mobiles and many other items.
Objective 6
Ongoing support of the girls' health, physical and mental wellbeing, as well as education to ensure basic needs are met.
Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding a physiotherapist one day a week at the Manacare Foundation. • Assisting with course funding and literary works for mindfulness and mental health subjects.

Future objectives

Life in Sri Lanka is very different to our western civilisation, the committee have worked successfully to understand and align with the culture to ensure the girls always feel safe and supported. We have a number of objectives for the coming year to expand on our achievements to date.

Objectives
Expand on our collaboration with others to be able to support additional major projects.
Expand our list of major donors.
Encourage more committee members to travel to Sri Lanka to meet with the girls and gain first-hand knowledge of the places we work with.
Investigate other orphanages/schools that require assistance to continue their work and stay operational.
Research and apply for grants/funding.

SECTION 3 – FINANCES

Treasurer's report

We are pleased to report that the 2024-2025 financial year has been our most successful since our incorporation in 2017. We have received some amazing large donations which shows that our charity is becoming known worldwide. Our largest donation of \$10,000 was received from an anonymous donor. We also received \$3,000 from SLAYA (Sri Lanka Australia Youth Association) in Perth WA. SLAYA is run by a group of Sri Lankan university students.

The Profit & Loss Account this year shows a net profit of \$10,185.91 which is a great increase from the 2023-2024 net profit of \$918.54.

The Balance Sheet shows increased equity to \$21,488.30 which is a positive position moving forward into the 2025-2026 financial year.

Income

Donations from Australian donors have increased considerably as noted above plus our regular donors who continue to support us. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank everyone who supports our work, we could not improve the lives of our children, assist orphanages and families plus fund a safe house without these generous donations.

Fundraising

- The fundraising events we perform each year have continued.
- The money we received from selling products purchased from Sukhitha Orphanage and Thanuja will be sent to them. This will enable the purchase of more materials and allow them to continue their good work.
- With the assistance of Karuna, Thanuja has started her own home business producing bags of all shapes and sizes which we sell on her behalf.
- The fundraising for Karuna at the Barn Hill caravan park where two of our committee members spend 4-5 months of each year, was raised by holding raffles, selling donated items and having a donation tin available at the QiGong classes.

Expenses

Administration Costs

The committee members continue to pay all administration costs in line with our President's determination to make sure all donations received are spent in Sri Lanka.

Bank charges

These have increased due to the ANZ Bank withdrawing their offer not to charge fees when money is transferred overseas. This cost was paid with donations from committee members.

GiveNow

These fees also increased due to Karuna receiving additional donations through this platform. This cost was paid with donations from committee members.

Printing & Stationery

The cost of stationery was paid for by a donation from a committee member.

Sponsorship

The expenses of \$35,666.04 for sponsorship in Sri Lanka have increased this financial year.

Expenses for support in Galle

This amount has increased due as more funding has been required for additional education fees for the girls in the safe house. The safe house is still working well with 4 girls living there and Shashi, (Co-ordinator) looking after them. We also support 3 girls in very good boarding houses as they complete traineeships, attend school and university. We continue to keep in touch with most of the girls we have watched grow up and assist, where needed, with food and supplies. They appreciate that we keep in touch and that we are still interested in their future.

Frangipani Pre-school

This is the beginning of a new project to improve the Frangipani pre-school building, playground equipment and improve the children's education. Funds are being raised for this large project.

Gintota School

We continue to fund the cricket coach and assistant coach (a student) at the school. We feel it is important for students to have a balance between sport and academic achievements. Karuna funded the accommodation costs for the cricket team in Galle when they played in the inaugural "Battle of the Yellows" cricket match held at the famous Galle Cricket Oval.

The Manacare Foundation

We are happy to continue sponsorship to fund a physiotherapist to work an additional day every week at Manacare. Joy has worked with the foundation for many years and has been able to assist many people with disabilities, both young and old, who live in nearby villages to improve their lives. The people who receive assistance cannot afford to attend a physiotherapy practice however, the Manacare Foundation offers this service free of charge.

Moravinna Girls Orphanage

We continue to supply food and gas bottle refills for cooking on a regular monthly basis. Many improvements to the Orphanage are ongoing and funded by Karuna, they appreciate all the assistance we are able to give.

Sukhitha Orphanage

The building program, with our assistance, continues at Sukhitha. The ongoing plans are to rebuild a bridge across the property which is required for students with disabilities to be able to attend school as only 2 children can cross at a time currently. It has been difficult to organise the re-building due to increased costs and finding a reliable company in Sri Lanka to carry out the work. Quotes from more reliable contractors are still being sought.

We also purchase items from the Sukitha Vocational Centre and sell them in Australia. The money raised from the sales is returned to the vocational centre to allow them to purchase more materials.

Tikiri Children's Home

Once again, we have been able to assist Tikiri with essential equipment and food. This is an orphanage looking after babies and toddlers up to 5 years old.

Girls' education

We are funding a number of the girls through their tertiary and vocational education journeys, below are some of the highlights.

Our funding has assisted **Piyuma** with finishing her 'A' levels as well as attending Korean language classes as this is where she wishes to move to in future. Karuna has also enabled her to successfully complete an English course at the British Way English Academy.

We are very proud of **Ageesha** who is now in her 4th year at University, Karuna has helped fund her expenses during her studies. Earlier this year we also helped fund a course for her with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board which has led to her being offered an internship with the company.

Sanduni is another young lady whom we have assisted with funding to successfully complete the English course at the British Way English Academy.

We are delighted that **Ishara** has been accepted into NSBM Green University near Colombo to study a BM (Honours) in Business Analytics. Karuna is assisting with funding for her university fees and accommodation.

Talented dancer, **Maheesha**, has always wanted to become a traditional dancer and perform at festivals, which she was thrilled to be invited to do last year. She lives at a very good boarding house in Galle funded by Karuna which enables her to attend school. We also fund the school fees and travel with the assistance of The Free Town Charity in England.

Karuna provided funding for **Dileka's** expenses while completing a 6-month Hospitality and Chef training course. Following successful completion, she was offered a role at a restaurant training under an international chef. While Dileka no longer needs as much financial assistance, we maintain contact and support for her as she shapes her future.

Summary

It has been another busy year for Karuna, and we feel we have achieved a great deal. With the continuation of our regular and one-off donations, the next financial year will see us accomplish more projects and continue our support to so many girls, families and orphanages.

All this work could not be achieved without our 2 hard working co-ordinators, Jayani and Shashi in Sri Lanka and, of course, our valuable committee member volunteers. The sharing of ideas at our meetings gives us the opportunity to fund and achieve so many great projects. I wish to thank everyone for their loyalty and support during the last financial year and look forward to working with you in the future.

We have many regular donors that have continued their support since 2017. We could not continue to grow and achieve so much without them. Also, the one-off donations we have received in the last financial year have assisted us greatly, so I wish to thank everyone for their very kind and generous donations.

June Foote
Treasurer

Financial statements

Karuna Sri Lanka Inc.
Profit and Loss Statement
For the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Cash basis

	30.06.2025	30.06.2024
INCOME		
FUNDRAISING		
Barn Hill 1 day raffles	1,212.00	511.00
Funds received from Qi Gong classes	1,804.20	393.70
Sales of donated items at markets	380.50	215.10
Sukhitha Orphanage Sales	385.30	-
Thanuja Market Sales	24.00	-
Total — FUNDRAISING	3,806.00	1,119.80
DONATIONS		
Australia	35,084.20	25,559.42
Frangipani Pre-School	1,780.00	-
Overseas	5,161.05	3,433.04
Total — DONATIONS	42,025.25	28,992.46
DONATIONS - Contributions to Administration		
Committee Member - Merle Nuber	62.67	-
Committee Member - Tim McDonald Contribution	-	43.89
Committee Member/Treasurer - Allan & June Foote Contribution	240.00	120.00
President - Justin Peacock Contribution	183.42	90.77
Total — DONATIONS - Contributions to Administration	486.09	254.66
Interest received	20.70	0.07
Total — INCOME	46,338.04	30,366.99
Less: Expenses		
ADMISTRATION COSTS		
Bank charges	90.00	-
Domain renewal	-	43.89
GIVE NOW - fees	333.42	210.77
Printing and stationery	62.67	-
Total — ADMISTRATION COSTS	486.09	254.66
SPONSORSHIP		
Expenses for support in Galle	30,178.04	25,954.00
Frangipani Pre-School	53.65	-
Gintota School	2,048.65	1,511.00
Manacare Foundation	600.00	600.00
Morawinna Children's Home	1,812.99	-
Sukhitha Orphanage	660.00	600.00
Tikiri Orphanage - Kandy	312.71	528.79
Total — SPONSORSHIP	35,666.04	29,193.79
	30.06.2025	30.06.2024
Total — Expenses	36,152.13	29,448.45
Net profit (loss)	10,185.91	918.54

Karuna Sri Lanka Inc.

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2025

Cash basis

	30.06.2025
Assets	
Cash & cash equivalents	21,488.30
Net assets	21,488.30
Equity	
Retained earnings	21,488.30
Total equity	21,488.30

SECTION 4 – OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

How you can help

Ideally, we are looking for sponsors that are able to commit to ongoing monthly donations. We have an Australian bank account and all that is required is to set up an automatic recurring monthly transfer. Of course, we happily accept one-off donations as well.

Bank: Westpac
Account name: Karuna Sri Lanka Inc.
BSB: 036-044
Account number: 339908

We hold DGR (deductible gift recipient) status, meaning that all donations of \$2 and above made by Australian taxpayers are tax deductible, and donors will receive a receipt at the end of the financial year to be used for their tax return.

For donations in currencies other than Australian dollars please use the GiveNow fundraising portal: www.givenow.com.au/KarunaSriLanka

Donations are also possible via PayPal Giving Fund:
<https://www.paypal.com/au/fundraiser/charity/3737835>

We also welcome new committee members or friends who can organise or help with fundraising activities.



Moravinna Girls' Home

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our donors and sponsors, the Freetown Trust Fund, James Floyd, and our volunteer committee members for all their support during the 2024-2025 financial year.

Thank you for putting smiles on so many faces!



The head matron at Moravinna with recently donated toilet and food items



Contact us



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