



KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our 1st Newsletter of 2026

MAJOR FLOODS IN SRI LANKA

In mid November 2025 the country was hit with devastating floods around the Kandy area. The floods were very serious and many families lost their homes and businesses were closed. Karuna decided to assist with a donation to buy much needed water and food for the families that had lost their homes. We did this through our 2 co-ordinators, Jayani and Shashi to make sure our help reached these devastated families. Water was very important due to the wells, which many families rely on for water, had been filled with mud and debris from the flood



Jayani purchased food and water with a Karuna donation. She delivered the food to the catholic school her grand-daughter attends. This made up 140 parcels of food. Once they had collected enough items to fill a lorry some of the students and Jayani actually delivered everything to the families in small communities. This entailed driving down very muddy tracks to reach the families in need.



Food parcels ready to be delivered



Loading the truck



Delivering the food along muddy tracks

Shashi also purchased food and water with our donation to add to a promotion at her work and transport was organised to take it to the families. The girls in the safe house also donated money to this promotion.



A parcel of food ready to pack



Food parcels and much needed water

We are sure you will be pleased to know that some of your very kind donations have helped families who have lost everything and now need to rebuild their homes and lives.

Tamara, who has now joined our committee and is working hard to raise funds for the Frangipani pre-school also donated money from her fundraising events to the flood disaster. Chiani, the headmistress of Frangipani purchased water and food which she delivered to the monks who were organising to have donated goods sent to the needy.



Chaini giving food and water to the monks for transportation to the needy.

The Free Town Trust in England, which supports Karuna, also sent money for Jayani to purchase food and water and with these funds the school was able to make up another 140 food parcels. The parcels were added to the delivery trucks and given out by Jayani and students.

Parcels of food ready to be packed and transported



One of our young ladies, **Piyumi** that we still keep in touch with contacted us to say her boarding house had to be evacuated and she was living in a refugee camp. We also donated some money to Piyumi for food and water for which she was very grateful.

Message from Piyumi:

“hi justin bro how are you.....i'm having a very sad time.
Our houses are under water.
We are in refugee camps.
The water in the house and
everything has been washed away.
We spent time in the camps”.

Piyumi standing in the flood water



Happier news follows of our current projects.

BEAUTIFUL BAGS MADE BY THANUJA

June, Kay and Jayani visited Thanuja where they enjoyed a very nice afternoon tea AND picked up a bigger order of beautiful bags that Thanuja has made for June to take back to Australia and sell. The proceeds of the sales will be returned to Thanuja to enable her to purchase more material.

June presented Thanuja with the proceeds from sales of her bags during 2025.

This amounted to \$60 (12,753 slkr)

A little sales pitch!!

If anyone is interested in purchasing one of these lovely bags as a gift or for yourself,

please email:

June – junefoote48@gmail.com

for further information or to place your order.

The bags cost \$20 each plus postage.

*Both bags have a black back.
Bag size 43cm w x 33cm h (approx.)*



June and Thanuja with the 2 bag designs



Thanuja with our delicious afternoon tea.



There is also a zippered compartment inside.

“Summer” is available with Blue and Maroon base and handles.

“Chairs” is available with Maroon base and handles

Maheesha our very talented dancer

Our visit to Maheesha coincided with the beginning of her "A" Level exams therefore we were able to let her know we will be thinking of her at this very important time.

Ageesha had travelled from University in Colombo to visit Maheesha and help her with last minute study which was very kind of her. It is good to see our girls helping each other. Maheesha is also taking exams in Media and Sinhalese. Due to the floods Maheesha's practical dance exam has been delayed until March.

Maheesha's older sister, Chamodi, also travelled to the boarding house to meet us.



The wall behind Maheesha's desk makes a great study board.

She has a nice big table where she can study in her boarding house.

We purchased a nice big wardrobe for Maheesha which she is very happy with.



A very special birthday!!

PIYUMA

Celebrated her 21st Birthday
We have watched Piyuma grow from a young child living at the Yasodara Orphanage into a lovely, cheerful young lady. She is studying hard on her Korean lessons as she wishes to live and work there one day. She is presently also attending a hospitality course.

DILEKA

A visit to Sri Lanka is not complete without catching up with Dileka.

Tamara had not seen Dileka since she was a child therefore, she was very excited when June organized a visit. They travelled down many country lanes to the Yoga Retreat where Dileka is working as a chef.

She is very happy working at this beautiful retreat; however, she loves to keep on studying to improve her skills. She is a very hard worker and has done very well, coming from a very humble beginning.

Sukhitha Orphanage. We always enjoy visiting the Sukhitha Orphanage for children and adults with special needs.



This gentleman is their best machinist.



Jayani with one of the lady machinists.



The ladies are very proud of the bathmats they make.



Kay presenting the proceeds of sales.

We purchase many handmade items from Sukhitha and sell them in Australia. Kay presented the proceeds of the sales which amounted to \$588.30 (125,043.93 slkr). This will go a long way to purchasing more material to enable the vocational centre to keep running.

We also picked up an order of bags - for your phone, shoulder bags and bathmats which will be sold in Australia during 2026.

Moravinna Girls Orphanage

When we visited Moravinna Girls Orphanage we delivered food and filled a gas bottle as usual. Kay had made an "Angel" doll for each child. As you can imagine they were very excited to receive this special gift that they could keep. Kay saw one little girl rush to her locker and place her angel at the back behind all her clothes so that it was safe. We added a different coloured heart to each angel to enable every child to know their special treasure.



Matron is always very pleased with the monthly food donation



Kay's Angel dolls given to the children.



Fauve, our youngest committee member, organised girls from her school in England, to donate sneakers to the girls at Moravinna. The next time John visited he delivered 26 pairs and the girls were very happy with this great gift.

Thanks, Fauve for organising this and the pay pal program.



Fauve has also organised a pen pal program between her school and the girls at Moravinna. John had taken letters to the Moravinna girls and he has just picked up the first replies to take back to England.



During our visit, the Matron asked Shashi if we would be able to supply 4 waterproof mattress covers and new curtains for 7 windows.



Kay very kindly purchased the waterproof mattresses.

June and Kay decided to make the curtains a project during their stay. June purchased 28 metres of material. They enjoyed sewing them at Manacare and Jayani's home.



Joy at Manacare allowed us to use her overlocker so Kay got to work.



Kay sewing with Miheli feeding the material on Jayani's sewing machine.



Shashi and John delivered the curtains.



Curtains fitted and hung



One of our first projects for **Moravinna** in 2026 has been to organize and pay for a covered walkway to be installed between the main building and dining/study room. This will be of great benefit due to the heavy downpours of rain especially in the wet season.



The finished walkway is great.



We wish to share other special moments during Kay and June's visit in the following photos and notes of everyone they met.



We delivered food to Bhashini and June gave her daughter, Manulya a quilt she had made and Kay gave Manulya a doll she had knitted.

Dinithi

We met with Dinithi during our stay in Colombo and we enjoyed a walk around the zoo. We gave her a gift of make-up which we knew she would appreciate as this can be quite expensive in Sri Lanka. She was very pleased to have a chat as it had been quite a while since June had seen her and Kay was happy to meet Dinithi for the first time.

GANGULI & ANJULA

Ganguli is cooking food to sell outside their house on an evening as people arrive home from work. She is also continuing with her painting which she has an opportunity to sell in the Fort at Galle.

Anjula is still working in a shoe factory to support her mum.

We gave a gift of make-up to Ganguli and Anjula which they were very happy with.



A catch up from the past with SUPUN

Many of you will remember Supun, a young boy that we helped when his father died suddenly and he had no family to look after him. He has a career teaching surfing to the many tourists that visit Galle. Supun's goal is to own his own



Shopping for food to take to Sachini and Nilmini who lives at Candapura Orphanage



We enjoyed meeting Matron and the Monk who started the orphanage many years ago.

Sachini and her family were pleased to see us. It was great to see they now have a water filter in their 1 room home.

Sachini was proud to show us a blender and iron too. Items we take for granted, to her it is a huge improvement to help her.

They have also started keeping bees. This will enable them to sell honey in the future



Shashi, one of our lovely co-ordinators celebrated her birthday in December. John was in Galle to celebrate with her and he very kindly took Shashi, her family and friends out for dinner.



JAYANI is very happy with this gift of ball bags.



Our other co-ordinator, Jayani is also a very experienced netball coach. We have previously given donated netballs, uniforms and equipment to Jayani. A netball club in Australia presented June with netball sports bags on wheels. June and Kay each took one of these bags full of netballs and uniforms. Jayani could not believe she was receiving this much needed equipment. We still have more sports bags and netballs to take on our next trip to Sri Lanka. Jayani knows many netball teams who can benefit from any equipment. Karuna assists one of these young ladies continue her education.



June and Kay watched a netball match and were surprised to receive gifts from the teams

@Project Frangipani Pre-School Update



I am pleased to report this project is going very well. Tamara has organised great fund-raising events in Melbourne and this has enabled us to organise events and upgrades at the pre-school with the assistance of Mrs Chaini (head teacher) and her assistant. Tamara, Kay and June visited the school in November. They enjoyed a very warm welcome from the children and teachers.

The projects completed so far include:

- Support and funding for the Night Camp education program
- Funding the End-of-Year Concert and Graduation Ceremony
- Provision of student stationary materials and essential teaching resources
- Refurbishment of playground equipment, the hanging bridge, and classroom desks
- Donation of essential food supplies to flood-affected communities via the local temple

*With the provision of student materials, all students now have the materials they need to start school. This has enabled a record **41 children** to enrol in 2026—a **25% increase from 2025**, ensuring every child can thrive, including those who previously could not afford to send their children to this pre-primary school.*

We can now give more children a good start in life.

We have many more projects ahead of us in 2026 and we will be keeping you updated



Kay knitted a doll for each of the children which they loved. She enjoyed giving the dolls out.



Chaini was very happy to receive school stationary brought from Australia

The Christmas Concert.



Frangipani fundraising paid for the material, Chaini and the children's mums made the banners

The Playground



Tamara's fundraising paid for welding repairs and paint. The parents worked hard on the painting of the equipment.



The Swinging Bridge



The swinging bridge is in the process of being rebuilt. We will show the finished bridge in our next newsletter. Frangipani have purchased the materials and the parents are rebuilding it.

Painting the desks

The mums busy painting the desks in the school grounds.

We love the way the parents wish to be involved to save money.



If you wish to know more about the @Frangipani Pre-School Projects please contact Tamara by email: tamara_speldewinde@icloud.com

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.

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 or our Treasurer, June Foote junefoote48@gmail.com /mobile: 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 at the end of the financial year. If you wish to receive a receipt immediately please let June know and she will be happy to send it to you.

PLEASE NOTE: Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible for Australian tax payers.

✦ **If you wish to support the Frangipani Pre-School project, donate to Karuna.**
*(Please reference “**Frangipani**” when donating)*



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

Visit our website www.karunasrilanka.com.au for the link.



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.

A NICE LITTLE STORY TO FINISH.



WHEN FRANGIPANI PRE-SCHOOL HAVE VISITING GUESTS, THE PARENTS PICK A FEW FLOWERS FROM THEIR GARDEN FOR THE CHILDREN TO PRESENT THEM TO THE GUESTS. THE CHILDREN ENJOY BEING PICKED TO PRESENT THE FLOWERS AND THEY ALWAYS HAVE A BIG SMILE ON THEIR FACE.

