



KARUNA SRI LANKA NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2026



In this issue

**Justin Peacock (President) &
John Woods (Vice- President)**
Visit to
SRI LANKA – FEBRUARY 2026

They will enjoy sharing their visits to:

The University where Ishara is studying.
Sukitha Orphanage
Moravinna Orphanage
Candapura Orphanage
Piyumi and her husband
The young ladies living in the safe house
Gintota High School
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Meeting the CEO of the University

Karuna likes to visit places where our young ladies' study to make sure they are in a safe environment with good facilities.

Justin and John's first visit was to meet the CEO of NSBM Green University where Ishara is studying BM (Honours) in Business Analytics degree. The CEO gave a tour of the University which they found very interesting.



SUKITHA ORPHANGE



It is always a pleasure to visit this orphanage which is a safe haven for children and adults with a disability

Justin, Jayani (Co-ordinator) enjoy visiting the Vocational Training Centre where they always purchase some of the hand-made items.



Karuna purchase bath mats, shoulder bags and phone bags to sell in Australia. The profit is returned to Sukitha for them to purchase more material.



Justin enjoys purchasing their stock.

Jayani visiting the vocational centre

MORAVINNA GIRLS ORPHANAGE



Fauve, a committee member collects donated clothes and shoes from her school friends for the girls. What great fun they have trying on these lovely styles and sharing with each other.



Elaine, a friend of John, took a range of gifts for the girls. They were so happy to receive these special surprise gifts. There was something for each of the girls.



Some of the children were sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Karuna, with the help of a big donation from The Free Town Trust in England purchased 5 new beds. This enables each child to now have their own bed.

OUR BIGGEST PROJECT IS UNDERWAY.



These are the showers the girls have been using for many years. Karuna has raised funds to erect a roof over the showers, new shower fittings, floor and wall tiles. What a difference this will make for the 19 girls living here.

Watch out for the finished project in our next newsletter!!!!

CANDAPURA ORPHANAGE

Our only girl still living in an orphanage is Nilmini. She has lived at Candapura Orphanage from many years as she has no family.



It was great for Justin to chat about Nilmini's plans for the future as she will soon be 18 years old and has to leave the orphanage. She is interested in living at the safe house, if possible and wishes to continue her education.

On behalf of Karuna Justin donated 30,000 slkr (\$127) towards education programs at the orphanage. We also always take a supply of food to assist the orphanage. This includes some cakes or lollies as a treat for the children. They always go down well.

Good news and update from our last newsletter

You may remember an article from our previous newsletter about Piyumi who was without a home or food due to the floods. We are happy to say that Piyumi has now been able to return to her boarding house. She has also married and is very happy.



Justin visited them and was happy to meet her husband and see Piyumi is very happy.

Our young ladies in the safe house.

It has been a busy time for the young ladies living at the safe house. They have painted the kitchen in their spare time and started to grow their own vegetables as they wait to commence the next stage of their education.



Even the front steps received a coat of paint.



To make money towards their education fees they decided to make candles and sell them. Their packaging is great and we wish them well with this project.

We are very proud of these 3 young ladies who live here.

This year all 3 have commenced university courses. Something they had dreamed about, but had not thought it was achievable while growing up in difficult circumstances.

BIG THANKS go to all our sponsors and supporters who have helped make this possible with your very generous donations.

SPORTS UPDATE

Gintota High School Cricket Program

Justin was excited to return to Gintota and meet up with the cricket coach, Avishka and assistant coach, (a student). Karuna funds their wages therefore it was great for Justin to hear the U/19, U/15 and U/13 school teams are very strong this year with the players training up to 5 times a week.



Justin was very happy to be presented with a Gintota team cricket shirt by the coach, Avishka.



In April Karuna funded much-needed training equipment for Gintota. Jayani, our co-ordinator, purchased and delivered the equipment to the teams.

An ex-student from Gintota High School Succeeds

Well done to a fine young cricketer, "RASHIE" who grew up through our cricket program at Gintota and now plays 1st Class cricket for Sri Lanka



NETBALL



The netball teams are playing well. Jayani was pleased Justin was able to attend one of the coaching sessions and meet the girls.

Karuna will be delivering netballs and 2 more sports bags in November when 3 committee members visit Sri Lanka.

MAHEESHA & her sister **CHAMODI** enjoyed lunch with John and Justin. It was a good opportunity to chat about plans for **Maheesha's** future now she is 18 years old. She would, if possible, like to attend the 55-day english program at the British Way English Academy which we have funded to enable 6 of our girls to attend over the last few years.

Chamodi is looking forward to her husband returning from overseas where he has been working. They plan to rebuild the small shop they had in the grounds of her husband's family home which Chamodi ran successfully. The government brought in new planning rules which sadly meant the shop had to be dismantled.

THANUJA welcomed Justin when he visited her with a very good afternoon tea. She showed



Justin how the house they are building has progressed since his last visit. It takes a long time to build the house as they need to save up money before the next stage can be built. Thanuja works hard at her home sewing business to fund the building works. Justin



presented Thanuja with a new donated mobile phone. Thanuja was very thankful for this great gift. Thanuja's husband is working in Israel to save money to purchase a digger which will enable him to have his

own business. Working abroad is often the only way for families to build towards a good income

A Karuna donor assists artist in Sri Lanka

Big thanks to renowned botanical artist Christine Cresswell from Western Australia, who kindly donated some wonderful art supplies to an up-and-coming artist in Sri Lanka.

Dilum Diyunuge is in his second year at art school and is already producing some amazing pieces.



He also takes commissions and anyone wishing to request his services, please let us know and we can put you in touch.

John and Justin met Dilum many years ago and have followed his progress. His dream and goal in life is to become a well-known artist in Sri Lanka.



You can view more of Dilums' art Work on his facebook page:

Dilum Diyunuge

FRANGIPANI PRE-SCHOOL

*Justin and John received the usual warm welcome from the children when they visited the school.
(See the photo at the beginning of this newsletter)*



They were pleased to see the swing bridge has been replaced with new material funded by Frangipani. The parents of the school worked together to re-build the bridge. It is the gateway to their gazebo play area therefore the children are very happy to be able to use the bridge again. It also assists children with learning to balance as well as being fun.



Another work in progress repair has been to replace the window hinges and stays to add security to the building. Frangipani has purchased the materials; they are just waiting on a joiner to fit them.



Recently Sri Lanka celebrated Vesak, a very important religious ceremony. Frangipani has funded the celebration for the children. Chaini, the headmistress works very hard with the children to understand why the ceremony is so important. Giving offerings of flowers is always a big part of any celebration in Sri Lanka.



Karuna sponsors a different family each month by donating \$75 (16,000 slkr) for food to a family that is struggling. Chaini purchases food vouchers for a family which she knows is having financial problems due to sickness, unemployment, or a mother on her own looking after children that attend the pre-school. When Fauve was visiting the pre-school Chaini asked her to present the family with the vouchers.

If you wish to learn more about the @Frangipani Pre-School Projects, please contact Tamara Speldewinde, who is organising this project, by email: tamara_speldewinde@icloud.com

THANK YOU FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTER

If you have any suggestions regarding the content or design of the newsletter, please message June Foote (Treasurer) 0417 553 320.

We enjoy keeping you up to date with some of our work in Sri Lanka. If you wish to chat to us regarding any of the projects in this newsletter, please contact Justin by email karunasrilanka3@gmail.com

If you feel any of your friends or work colleagues would be interested in supporting our charity please share this newsletter.

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



DIRECT TO OUR BANK ACCOUNT:

(Preferred method- donations are received normally by the following day)

Our donors in Australia are able to make payments **direct** to our bank account from their own bank account 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.



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

Please Note: Donations are not forwarded to Karuna until the following month.

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: Donations are not forwarded to Karuna until the following month.

Overseas Donors: Payments from overseas to Give Now can only be made through a **Credit Card** account.