

6 Little Australians

In November, our family of 6 had the privilege of sharing 5 days with Fred and Olivia and the gorgeous children at St. Anthony's Home for Boys (though it's also for girls!) We helped out (a little) but mostly spent our time just hanging out with everyone. The kids having exposure to English is a great advantage for them in Sri Lankan society, and it was our pleasure to be able to provide some. From a family point of view, we had some trepidation about how things would be. We wondered about how rough things would be and how our children would manage the whole experience. It was to be one of the highlights of our time in Sri Lanka. The food was great, the accommodation fabulous, and our children (18, 16, 13 and 10) had a really fantastic time. They acknowledged the sadness for the kids and their circumstances, but very naturally focused on the positives of the situation. We all ate together, played together, and sang together, but also were able to have our own space when we needed to. The bedtime singing will always remain warmly in our hearts. I could rave on and on about the generosity and honesty of Fred and Olivia, and the remarkable atmosphere of the place, but suffice it to say it was a truly wonderful time and our kids keep asking to revisit. The positives for us have been enormous, and we hope in some small way for them too.