

SRI LANKA REPORT

January 2010 Gunargarang Rotaract Club's International Project was launched & put into action. The plan was to send 7 Gunargarang Members + 1 Member from Burwood Rotaract to Sri Lanka to do some community service work at the St Anthony's Boys Home, a mixed gender orphanage currently consisting of 15 children, between the ages of 3 & 16 its located in Hewadiwela, 29km from Kegalle. This orphanage is part of the KKCF (Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund). As part of the KKCF they also have land in Balangoda (Further South) which is being used as the Agriculture Project. In the near future the KKCF plan to cultivate most of the land, and sell what they grow to help fund itself, as well they are planning to build a big Shed in the middle of the property which could be used as a training facility for locals, or the older Orphans wanting to get into the agriculture trade.

While we were in Sri Lanka we visited both locations helping all we could for the time we were there.

At the Orphanage in Hewadiwela we helped by:

- Sanding down and readied the swing set.
- Doug up trenches for wall foundations.
- Mixed & carried concrete for new wall.
- Sorted & Categorized library books that were previously donated, the library once complete will be available to the community.
- Assisted in English Classes.
- Taught lessons in Basic First Aid.
- Participated in Cricket, Soccer & other games with the kids, also donated a Frisbee, as it got caught in the tree.
- Donated Sheets & Towels.
- Removed old wiring and laid new cable for electrics and lights for the Montessori.
- Completely repainted Montessori including doors & windows inside & out.
- Painted a Blackboard for teaching use.
- Undercoated and painted shelving for bags.

At the Agriculture project at Balangoda we helped by:

- Digging a veggie patch, digging all the stumps up by hand
- Manually cut the grass
- Sanded and Linseed oiled shelter to protect from white ants
- Donated shoes to workers
- Brought wood for new buildings, then measured and marked the wood for the buildings.

At the agriculture project in Balangoda we climbed up one of the mountains to see how big the property actually was, and to get an idea of where the project will be in their time ahead.

While in Sri Lanka, we organized to meet with 3 of the local Rotary clubs in District 3220. Due to being there during the elections we were only able to meet with 2, where we did a presentation about how we got involved with the KKCF and the work we had achieved so far. We were lucky enough to meet with some local Rotaract + Interact members as well, exchanging emails, business cards to keep in contact for any work that may go forward in the future

David Mahoney February 2010