



Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund

Hi Everyone"

Welcome to the Easter 2010 edition of the KKCF Newsletter.

Our Children

Children's Home

We now have 18 beautiful children in our care.

These children come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect. We are now providing them with a safe and loving environment. When they first arrive at our home they are shy and scared but after a few days with the other children they feel more secure and are within no time they are outgoing and friendly.

All the children are currently attending schools

Check out our updated website with new sections on "Our Children", "Travelers' Tales" and "Sponsor a Day".

Wishing everyone a safe Easter from all of us at KKCF"



Update From Sri Lanka

in the local area and range from 6 to 16 years old. After school they have English lessons with Olly and Fred as well as music and crafts on weekends. They enjoy playing sports particularly cricket and soccer and they love their music and to put on stage performances.

After major work on the existing buildings we opened our Montessori for 30 local children on 11th Jan. Lessons are taught in the English medium. The children look great in their light green

and white checked uniforms.



Current projects include refurbishment of the kitchen in the main area and the creation of a separate girls' dormitory to house 15 girls. It will be self contained with its own kitchen and dining areas.

Who is KKCF?

The Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund (KKCF) is an Australian-based charitable organisation helping to relieve poverty in Sri Lanka.

Olivia (one of Kathleen Keegel's ten children) and her husband Fred Bartholomeusz have been in Sri Lanka since March 2004 and have faced many challenges during their time there.

For an update on their progress visit our website: www.kkcf.org



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TRAVELLERS! TALES

We have had many, many visitors at our home. We can't fit them all in this newsletter so please view their stories and photos on our website.

Katoomba Rotaract

January 2010 Gunargarang Rotaract Club's International Project was launched and put into action. The plan was to send seven Gunargarang members and one member from Burwood Rotaract to Sri Lanka to do some community service work at the St Anthony's Boys Home.

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 readying the swing set.
- Dug up trenches for wall foundations.
- Mixing and carrying concrete for new wall.
- Sorted and categorizing library books that were previously donated; the library, once complete will be available to the community.
- Assisting in English Classes.
- Teaching lessons in Basic First Aid.
- Participating in Cricket, Soccer and other games with the kids; also donated a Frisbee as theirs got caught in the tree.
- Donating sheets and towels.
- Removing old wiring and laying new cable for electrics and lights in the Montessori.

- Repainting the entire Montessori including doors and windows, inside and out.
- Painting a Blackboard for teaching use.
- Undercoating and painting shelving for bags.



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 and Interact members as well, exchanging emails addresses and business cards to keep in contact for any work that may go forward in the future.

David Mahoney February 2010



At the Agriculture Project at Balangoda we helped by:

- Digging a veggie patch, digging all the stumps up by hand
- Manually cutting the grass
- Sanding and linseed oiling the shelter to protect it from white ants
- Donating shoes to workers
- Bringing in wood for new buildings, then measuring and marking the wood for the buildings.

At the Agriculture Project in Balangoda we



TRAVELLERS! TALES Continued...

Hayley Travis and Josh Sloan
January 2010



Being our first time in Sri Lanka, and having never spent time in an orphanage, we had no idea what to expect when we arrived at the home. Thinking we were going to come to a home of sad stories and shy children, we prepared ourselves for emotion. However, as soon as we stepped out of the car, 16 crazy children attacked us! We

immediately fell in love with them all!

The children have a packed timetable full of school, arts/crafts, learning languages and chores, however, as far as they are concerned, these are all just activities to fill in time until cricket!

Olivia and Fred are two of the most amazing people we have ever met, they really care so much about these kids and the community around them. The orphanage feels just like a big family, you forget that



these children have been through so much. This is due to the incredible atmosphere Fred and Olivia have created. We cannot wait to go back again!

For the full article please visit our website: www.kkcf.org



The David Family Our Trip to Sri Lanka.

In October 2009 our family visited St Anthony's home. Our visit to the Orphanage was inspired by my 7 year old daughter "Delani". It was her birthday in February 2009 and after receiving so many Xmas presents last year she decided to save them all as birthday gifts and give them to an Orphanage. This was an idea of hers after we visited Bali the year before and took a suitcase full of toys for an orphanage.

We found the orphanage through the website and made our way up there a week after we arrived. Unfortunately the day we arrived we missed both Fred and Olivia,

but we were welcomed with open arms by the kids and carers anyway. I have visited many orphanages over the years and there is one thing that stood out for me on our arrival: it was like visiting a family home. The kids were so well mannered, thankful and eager to practice their English.

We handed out a toy for each child and I believe Olivia has put some away for Xmas. Olivia was disappointed that she missed us and ended up visiting our Aunty in Colombo to try and catch up with us. We were still on our travels and we were also sorry we missed her. We are committed to continue

our support to the Orphanage. I would also like to recognise what a great job Olivia and Fred do with the children who are lucky enough to be in their care.

We will be over there in 2010 with plenty more gifts and are planning to stay for a few days with my family to assist.

God Bless.

Vanessa, Dirk, Delani and Brayden



TRAVELLERS! TALES Continued...

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

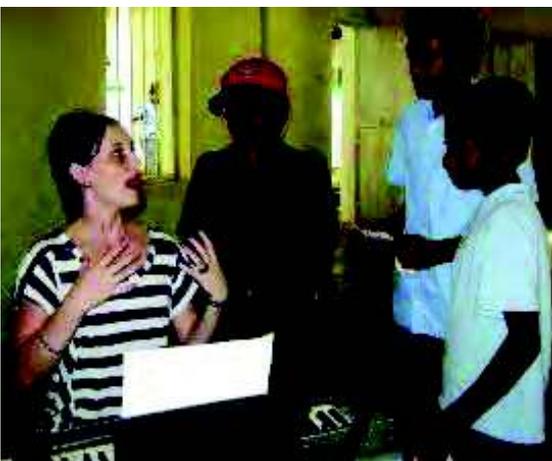
the generosity and honesty of Fred and Olivia, and the remarkable atmosphere of the place, but suffice it to say it was a truly wonderful time and our kids keep asking to revisit. The positives for us have been enormous, and we hope in some small way for them too.

Janice

For John, Janice, Zoe, Thea, Olivia and Felix



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



Pathum De Silva Ungakammanthi

23 January 1985 - 30 November 2009

Pathum, a Sri Lankan from the village of Moragalle, Beruwela passed away tragically on 30 November, 2009. I would like to make a donation in his memory to a good cause. He loved children and playing cricket so I feel a donation to help children would be something he would have liked.

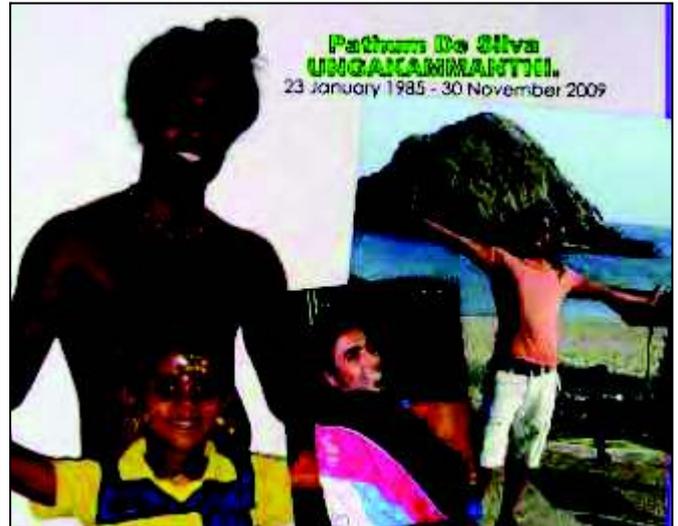
He was the kindest man I ever met and shared everything with others. At his funeral in early December, his old school teachers came to pay their respects and told me that even until very recently prior to his passing, he would drop by the school and bring soft drinks and sweets for the children. It meant a lot to these kids. He never expected anything in return and was always full of smiles and laughter for everyone. He was a devout Buddhist. He was really a shining light and we will all miss him terribly.

Pathum was a human being in the truest sense of the word and it is very difficult for those of us left behind to imagine life without his kindness and generosity of spirit.

It will make me happy to know that the children at KKCF will benefit from his being on earth even if he was here for only a relatively short time. He was 24 years old when he died. His 25th birthday would have been on 23rd January, 2010. He was captain in his local village cricket team called "Golden Heart" in Moragalle and that is really what he had.... a golden heart.

God Bless you and all the children at KKCF. May every day be filled with blessings and gratitude for all of God's gifts to us.

Kim Redman
January 2010



Noel Shearing (Shez)

16 December 1974 - 8 November 2009



On 19 September 2009 Noel Shearing (known as Shez) married his partner of five years, Emma Hamill.

Their beautiful wedding was held at the Fortress Hotel in Galle, giving many guests the opportunity to visit Sri Lanka for the first time.

The ceremony featured a number of local wedding traditions and was a true reflection of Emma and Shez. Anyone who knew Shez would say that he had met his match and soulmate in Emma. He had a very close relationship with his father Michael, a retired vicar, mother Shakun, a general practitioner also retired, and his adored younger sister Anshu.

Shez had an extended family in all his friends who he loved

dearly - in particular 'the boys' who he called his brothers!

Shez's love of sport started from a young age, he enjoyed playing rugby and cricket throughout Durham school and university. He loved telling stories about his 'school/uni' days - he had very close friendships with his school, university and rugby mates and their families.

Shez had a successful career in recruitment and absolutely loved to read - he could often be seen during his downtime with a book in hand.

Above all Shez loved to have fun and with Emma he lived life to the full. They learnt how to scuba dive together and planned diving holidays whenever they could.

Travelling the world was important to both, having been born in the United Kingdom - Emma in Ireland and Shez in England - they met in Australia where they lived together before moving to Hong Kong. They took full advantage of their location in Hong Kong, visiting Japan, Sri Lanka and India among other coun-

tries.

Sadly, Shez lost his life suddenly in November, just seven weeks after he married his lovely Emma. He was only 34 years old. Emma knew her husband would want her to try to create something positive out of his death. St Anthony's Boys Home was close to both of their hearts - Shez loved kids and Sri Lanka and would have given anything he could to help others.

Therefore Emma chose to honour the memory of her husband by inviting the many people who loved Shez to donate to St Anthony's and remember him by giving what they could to help the kids who live there.

The amount already raised is just over \$3000 - a big thanks to everyone for their generous contributions. We believe this amount will continue to grow - and Emma is determined that it will - to help the children of St Anthony's in loving memory of Shez.

Kellie Furey
March 2010

RECENT EVENTS

Garage Sale

We held two huge garage sales during December and February and raised over %2500.

We find that it is better for us to sell things here and send the funds to Sri Lanka rather than sending a consignment of goods. Thanks to all those who donated their goods and their time to help out.

Mega thanks to the Smulders family for the use of their home.

2009 New Years Eve Gold Ball

We saw the New Year in with style at the glamorous KKCF NYE09 Gold Ball held at Preston City Hall.

Dancing to the music of Sandra Jackson and Replay 6, the crowd enjoyed the fabulous buffet provided by Golden Roast. With lucky seat prizes, raffles and toss-a-coin there was plenty of entertainment for this great event.

We thank all who came along and enjoyed the wonderful night and also a big thank you to all our supporters.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Murder Mystery, Brisbane 17th April

Kathleen Keegel Childrens Fund Presents...
TRACY'S GANG SPEAKEASY
MURDER
MYSTERY NIGHT

"Come as a gangster, flapper girl or mob boss from the 1920's, bring your own tommy gun, booze and other costume bits and pieces for a great night out"

When: 17 April 2010
 Where: Holy Family Church Hall
 cnr of Ward St and Central Ave
INDOORPILLY
 Starts at: 7:00pm
 Ages: 15yrs+
 Cost: \$30 presold tickets only. RSVP 08 April 2010
 Contact Kim 0431634667, kimz_demarche@hotmail.com
 or Rebecca 0432063200
Sausage sizzle and soft drinks on sale

Limited Tickets Don't miss out

Prize for best Male and Female costume.

Mother's Day, Melbourne Sunday 9th May

KKCF
 KATHLEEN KEEGEL CHILDREN'S FUND

Alpacas, chooks, kelpies and Mad Madden the cat
 Invites you to celebrate Mothers' Day at Windmill Hill Farm

Sunday 9th May, from 12.30pm
 73 Bungower Road, Somerville
 Melways 149: B4

Spit Roast lunch and scones cooked in woodfired stove
 (Diet options, soft drinks for pain vegetarians catered for)

Pre-booking by 30th April
 No bookings on the day
 Adults - \$15, kids under 15 - \$10
 Family (2 adults, 3 kids) - \$50

Meet our Sheep Cutlets and Sunday
 Cart rides by Bundy the Clydesdale

Tracy 5977 9477 / 0412 460 567
 Georgie 9774 7883 / 0403 023 949
 Visit our website - www.kkcf.org

Bollywood Dancing, Melbourne

Stay tuned for details of another great Bollywood night headed your way mid-year.



SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS

THE ARTHOUSE

We thank Maree and Peter Kelly for their amazing support. Please visit the ArtHouse Backpackers and Studio at 616 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne - 03 9347 3917. Original live music six days a week.
www.thearthouse.com



THE SUCCESSFUL INVESTOR

If you are looking for quality investment property, we highly recommend the valuable services of Michael and Laurel Sloan. They continue to very generously support KKCF. We can personally vouch for their integrity and commitment to help others & 1300 800 886

www.thesuccessfulinvestor.com.au/index.cfm



Technofree Technology

KKCF thanks Prakash Kumar, Technofree Technology for updating our website. If you would like some work done on your existing website or to create a great new website give Prakash a call on 0425 271 909 - www.technofreetechnology.blogspot.com

Queensland State Insulation

Contact Smiley Sansoni on 0409 140 247

www.qldstateinsulation.com.au

Christine Wood Photography

m. 0407 138 710

P 03 9328 8025

E cw@christinewood.com.au

www.christinewood.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY
Christine Wood

DONOR FEATURE

The Correya family - Patrick, Rowena, Bradley and Rochelle, have very generously supported KKCF.

Patrick has his own business as a success coach www.createthechange.com.au and Rowena has a fantastic skin care business *BYD Skin and Beauty Solutions* 0419 315 013.

Together they also have a financial services business - www.mgfs.com.au 0409 005 554.



Thanks guys for your great support"

CONTACT US

Sri Lanka :

Fred * Olivia Bartholomeusz
+947 7644 0578

Orphanage address :

KKCF St Anthony#Boys#Home
Hewadiwela 71108 Sri Lanka

Brisbane :

Damian Bartholomeusz
07 3267 0159 / 0433 124 818

Melbourne :

Georgiana Godfrey
03 9774 7883 / 0403 023 949

Postal Address :

PO Box 6, Nudgee Qld 4014

Email : kkcf@inbox.com

Website: www.kkcf.org

KKCF is on Facebook

Mailing List

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at :

kkcf@inbox.com

PO Box 6
Banyo Qld 4014
Australia

DONATIONS

Make KKCF your charity this Easter.

Go to www.kkcf.org/ways_to_support/donations, see the details below or call us to find out how you can donate.



Donate through Global Development Group (GDG) (tax deductible)

KKCF is an approved partner of GDG. With this partnership comes the ability to provide our donors with **tax deductibility on their donations.**

Tax deductible donations can be made online through Global Development Group

www.globaldevelopment.org.au

Donate by Credit Card

You can use a credit card through PayPal

*An account with Paypal is **not** required to donate.*

Donate by Cheque

Please make cheques payable to Kathleen Keegel Children#Fund Limited and send to

PO Box 6, Banyo Qld 4014, Australia.

Donate by Bank Transfer

Australia

Account Name - Kathleen Keegel Childrens Fund

Bank - Westpac

BSB - 034041

Account # - 261077

Sri Lanka

Account Name - Kathleen Keegel Children's Home Trust

Bank - Commercial Banking Corporation of Ceylon

Account # - 6216002644



*Thank you for your generous donations,
love and support. Our work would not be
possible without family and friends!
prayers and support.*
