



KATHLEEN KEEGEL CHILDREN'S FUND

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**Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund Ltd**

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### 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 now look after 25 kids at the children's home, 30 local children attend the Montessori and they are also managing an agricultural project.



**Sharon Bartholomeusz**  
29/07/79 – 10/12/10

Thank you to all who donated generously to Sharon's memory. Over \$2,000 was raised for the children.

### Bonza Garage Sale

**26 & 27 Feb**

(weather permitting)

169 Belgrave Hallam Road,  
Narre Warren North

We welcome donations of pre-loved items in good condition.

Call Peterine on 9796 9196

### KKCF Grand Ball

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Whitehorse Club

298 Burwood Highway, East Burwood  
Dress – Formal

\$50 per head or

Table of 10 for \$450

incl 3 course sit down meal

Drinks at bar prices

Georgie 0403 023 949



### Sri Lankan Hoppers lunch Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Mulgrave Neighbourhood House  
Mackie Road, Mulgrave  
From 12.00pm

\$15 per head

Book your seats early  
Peterine 9796 9196



The alpacas, chooks, Bundy the Clydesdale and Mad Madden the cat invite you to

### Mothers Day Lunch at Windmill Hill Farm

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011 from 12pm  
73 Bungower Rd, Somerville  
\$15 spit roast lunch  
\$5 devonshire tea  
Contact Tracy on 0412 460 567

Thank you to  
**Ruby and Xavier**  
who kindly donated their  
Christmas money to send  
three tea chests to the  
kids in Sri Lanka.





## I LOVE Sri Lanka - Kiara Godfrey, Dec 2010



Sri Lanka could possibly be one of my favourite countries in the world and somewhere that I feel most content and at my happiest!! I couldn't wipe the huge smile off my face when we arrived. Our first day was spent with the human dynamite, aka Aunty Olly, who we accompanied on several errands around Colombo. Particularly memorable was a visit to the hospital where we found ourselves in the mental ward, being eerily watched and feeling totally out of place. With no windows, locked prison doors and some freaky people, it was almost like a scene out of Shutter Island. Welcome to Sri Lanka Matt!!

After travelling through India, Sri Lanka looks and feels to me like paradise. I've been wondering where all the people are hiding, enjoying the clean streets, wide open spaces and feasting my eyes on all the stunning scenery. I love being surrounded by palm trees, rice paddies, tea plantations, mountain ranges and some beautiful beaches. Despite how awesome I think the country is, the best thing by far about coming here again is visiting the kids at the orphanage. They are the best kids and it's going to be hard to leave them again. Matt and I have spent some quality time mucking around, playing cricket and board games, watching movies and helping them with their English.



We've also had a couple of fun day trips to an elephant orphanage and to Kandy. Around Christmas time a lot of the kids go back to their local villages so we've been left with only 8 over the holiday period which has made it that bit easier for us.

I don't know how Aunty Olly copes with 25 kids running around. I hope she knows how much I admire her and hope I can do something as amazing as what she is doing in my life.

Christmas with the kids was so much fun, despite the fact that we were both really homesick and missing all our Aussie traditions. We went to midnight mass which was all in Sinhalese. Matt especially loved all the standing up and kneeling down on a hard wooden plank!! After church we gave the kids some pressies from A Olly that they continued to play with all night until we had to confiscate them because we were trying to sleep up in the dormitory with them. Matt was the best Santa in the world!! He stayed up until about 3am just to make sure the kids were all sound asleep before using his ninja like stealth to sneak around and fill up their stockings. It paid off in the morning when they ripped open all their presents and choruses of 'batteries aunty, batteries' ran throughout to get their motorised toys working. We spent the rest of Christmas day doing some craft activities with them, having lunch, playing outside and then going out to Rambukkanna for hoppers.



Seeing the kids again was so amazing, I can't explain how happy it made me to see their smiling faces and be called aunty again. They are all doing really well, looking healthy and their English is getting better as well. Little Tharaka is still tiny and struggling a bit with a constant ear infection but his huge smile and beautiful spirit are as bright as ever. Sri Lanka was fantastic and I loved every minute we spent there with the kids and exploring the country. Our experience with the turtle hatchery in Bentota was absolutely surreal and like something out of National Geographic. Our time in Nurawa Eliya and Ella was spent going for long hikes, enjoying the stunning scenery and tea plantations and stumbling across the random cobras in the bush. Our one horrible experience in Sri Lanka was the train ride home from Ella. An overcrowded, rickety, stench filled 10 hour train resulted in two very grumpy Australian passengers, especially when it broke down for an hour and a half. Despite that one train ride though, I fall more in love with the country every time I go there and I can't wait to go back again