

Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare

Report #4 to Animal Aid Abroad, February 2015



To our fabulous AAA supporters - sincere thanks for your ongoing and generous financial support of our funky donkey activities. Your contribution goes a long way in a place like Mannar!



Gathering vegetables for the donkeys from the markets

Donkey feeding and taming

Robin continues his daily feeding of donkeys in the morning, gathering produce from vegetable vendors and in the afternoon from the garment factory and delivering it to homes which have adopted donkeys and also to our temporary sanctuary. And every day Robin and Kelvin spend time with twelve donkeys at the sanctuary taming, grooming, feeding and watering them. The garment factory and local vegetable vendors continue to support this program.

Word is spreading about our donkeys - Members of the WSDoM committee agreed to conduct awareness programs at schools to promote the positive features of donkeys. A letter was written to the Zonal Director of Education in Mannar to gain permission to conduct awareness programs at schools in the district.

Mannar Donkey Management & Welfare



Youngsters at Santhipuram get the message

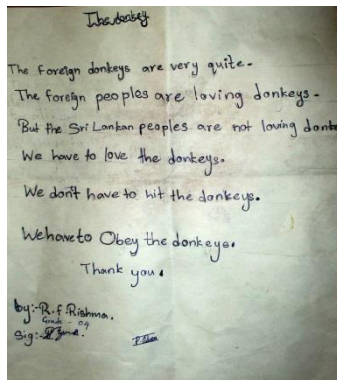


Standing room only at Sithyvinayakar Hindu College

Robin and Kelvin went to La Salle English Medium School and presented verbal and audio-visual presentations to 20 Grade four students. A competition about Mannar's donkeys was launched there. The second awareness program was conducted at Santhipuram village for youngsters and a third program at Sithyvinayakar Hindu College for Grade eights which attracted some 50 students.



Robin wooing students at La Salle College



A Grade 4 student's thoughts



A drawing of the useful roles donkeys can play

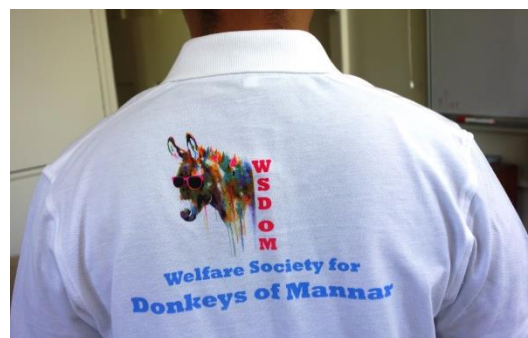
From the time Robin and Kelvin entered the classroom, the students, teachers and youngsters stared to laugh at them because of the low regard locals have for donkeys. By the end of the program they had changed their minds and were far more positively disposed towards these wonderful creatures.



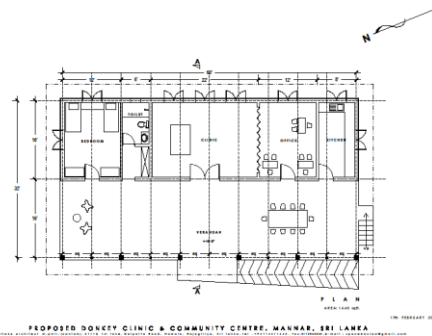
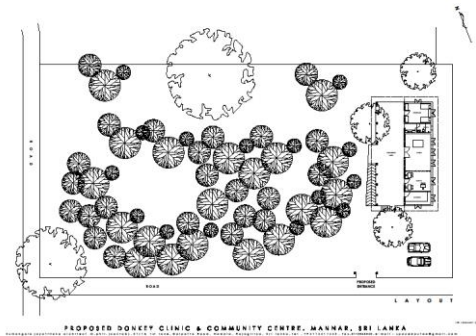
Kelvin prepared a slide show for the school program –

<http://slide.ly/view/98c1695a9b540908fb7586f874cdf8fc>

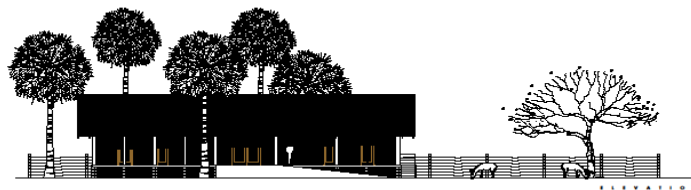
Donkey Merchandise - The Funky Donkey t-shirts were distributed to our WSDoM (Welfare Society for Donkeys of Mannar) members and three t-shirts were given to Sithyvinayakar Hindu College as prizes in our donkey awareness competition. The principle has agreed to sell t-shirts to students for Rs.800 each.



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Donkey Clinic & Community Education Centre - Draft architectural plans were completed by Sumangala and Dimitri and circulated to WSDoM members and Donkey Sanctuary India (DSI) staff for comment. DSI vet Dr Ramesh suggested some amendments to the building design, to separate the clinic from the education centre. We are hopeful that the drawings will be completed by the end of this month.



Donkey Sanctuary grounds

Al Hathir has been busy supervising the weeding of the future donkey sanctuary grounds and has planted a number of coconut trees for future shade and fruit. In anticipation of the opening of the sanctuary, donkeys are already lining up for accommodation!

A foal at the sanctuary gates



Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) - We are currently in negotiations with Donkey Sanctuary UK (DSUK) who will assist us to establish a Sri Lankan version of the amazing DAT centres throughout Europe. DSUK will be offering us Sally Price, International Program Development Consultant, for 7 days and the staff from the Donkey Sanctuary India team for two visits this year. Thanks for your generosity.

Vinod Khurana, Country Director, and Dr Ramesh Veterinary Surgeon from Donkey Sanctuary India