

Leading stories....

- First ever donkey tour to Sri Lanka transforms more than the tourists
- A group of widows fight for village economic development
- The Manna Catering Company, operated by widows, moves toward having a permanent kitchen



Mannar was not prepared for the zany Uniting Journeys tourists from Down Under who went wild over our donkeys!

During the past three months, the sparkle of having an engaged and fun-filled group of Australian tourists spend a week focused on donkeys was soon tempered by more sobering aspects, of Sri Lankan politics as well as challenges to our Bridging Lanka projects. But first the highlights...

We were blown away by the generosity of Donkey Sanctuary UK who sent three of their experts from Ethiopia and India to provide exceptional donkey awareness sessions for the tourists and also to help us establish the Donkey Assisted Therapy program in Mannar – the first of its kind in Asia. ... Following this, a group of widows have assertively withstood the opposition of a powerful few to support the establishment of the Donkey Clinic and Community Education Centre to both address the welfare of donkeys and to spear-head village economic development and job creation. ... A business planning process by war-affected widows has also led to concrete steps towards the establishment of a permanent kitchen and greater employment opportunities.

Disappointingly, the gloss has come off the new Government of Sri Lanka. People in Mannar are disgruntled that issues important to them - missing persons, detained prisoners, land held by the military, demilitarization, cost of living, livelihood for vulnerable groups and significant unemployment – are not being addressed substantially or soon enough. They are also frustrated that the UN Human Rights Council has once more made further allowances about Sri Lanka's accountability for allegations of war crimes, albeit with the expectation of political reform. In the midst of unsettled circumstances, Bridging Lanka also continues to face challenges from many quarters with local, national and international factors impacting our work on a daily basis. Undaunted, we continue to serve the people of Mannar District.

Special thanks to Mr. M.Y.S. Deshapriya, Government Agent Mannar, for his ongoing support.

Environmental Care

Donkey Clinic & Community Education Centre

Who would have thought that after three years of planning, village consultations, presentations to the public, government negotiations, multiple searches for suitable land, architectural plans, building applications and fund raising efforts, our Donkey Clinic Centre would remain unbuilt?

The factors that have worked against us include Mannar people's general distaste of donkeys, strong village and religious rivalries, the blocking actions of certain formal and informal gatekeepers who retain their power by discouraging pathways to personal, village and infrastructure growth and development and also the conservative nature of a population distrusting of new ideas and experiences.



Second proposed site for the donkey clinic

Three strikes and we were out!

After a humiliating defeat regarding our efforts to establish a donkey clinic and community education centre at Puthukkudiyiruppu, we regrouped around a second lot of land at Thailankudiyiruppu in Sinnakaraisal GN Division, Mannar Island.

At the first two stakeholder meetings, there was positive regard for the project with most of the people in Thailankudiyiruppu welcoming this opportunity for village social and economic development.

At the third meeting a powerful gatekeeper spun negative yarns and managed to derail the proceedings. This spooked some of the locals who when asked again if they supported the venture, responded with, "No". Two women, one, the president of a widow's association, have taken up the fight to secure this facility in their village.

One must remember that the donkeys have been in Mannar for a thousand years and became feral only because their owners were displaced by the war. If we look after donkeys, they'll look after us!



Two women - fearless advocates of the donkey facility



A challenging local stakeholder meeting which had a hopeful ending



A concerned resident

A supportive and visionary priest



Male residents vote against the proposal due to external pressure

Wise counsel from the GA

Frustrated that we had been blocked a second time by a small group of men, we sought advice from the Government Agent. Sage-like, he said that Sri Lankan President Sirisena had won the election by 52 per cent, and that if a majority of the community supported the venture, then go ahead!

Donkey work to the Max... what we did



Bridging Lanka staff discusses tactics with the women

- Explored a further four options for land before settling on the site at Thailankudiyiruppu;
- Held meetings with local stakeholders – Grama Niladhari (Village Head), Rural Development Society, Women’s RDS, Catholic Church Committee, Vempura Ladies Development Society (widows), Hindu Kovil Associations, Fishermen’s Society and neighbours;
- Amalgamated multiple land deeds - from nine owners to a sole owner;
- Undertook house to house visits to determine the level of support for the donkey facility and to gain their signatures;
- Met several times with the Government Agent Mannar, Secretary, Mannar Pradesiya Sabha (regional council), Mannar Town Divisional Secretary, and the Wildlife Conservation and Animal Production & Health Departments to gain their support and guidance;
- Held many meetings with Bridging Lanka staff, land owner, Pradesiya Sabha Secretary and lawyers to draw up the Lease Agreement
- Prepared all building application requirements including a land survey, establishment of property boundaries, payment of land taxes - and submission of the application.



BL staff and Al Hathir, the land owner, review the Agreement



The Agreement

Even more important was developing a formal Agreement between the land owner, the PS Secretary and Bridging Lanka (BL). Alas, things never go smoothly. After developing a final draft of the agreement and only needing a lawyer to review and sign off on it, the task of finding an available lawyer proved most challenging. At the eleventh hour (before Jeremy left Sri Lanka), a lawyer was found and all parties signed the agreement.

Despite the many trials, this was a special moment of reconciliation. The land owner (Muslim), the PS Secretary (Catholic), the Bridging Lanka director (Christian/Buddhist) and two witnesses, one a Muslim cleric, the other a Hindu woman and passionate supporter, signed the agreement in front of the attorney at law (Catholic) - a magnificent moment of bridge-building and Bridging Lanka’s raison d’être. And, this was another significant step closer to submitting our Donkey Clinic Centre building application!



Kulam work in jeopardy



Jam Fruit Tree Kulam at Periyakamam – the next kulam for Bridging Lanka?

With more disastrous impacts of climate change predicted for India, Sri Lanka and East African countries, the protection of kulams become an even more urgent priority.

However, for us the volatility of Sri Lanka has struck again. During the last trip we received high acclamation from the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS). Its new country director expressed how thrilled she was with Bridging Lanka's approach and contribution to protecting and rehabilitating the remaining kulams (water retention ponds) in Mannar....

Bridging Lanka's style

Bridging Lanka brought a strong community participation approach, engaged local and foreign experts (engineers, landscape architects, urban designers and social planners), undertook community awareness through meetings, videos and online exposure and even conducted door to door visits to request the return of illegally gained land in kulams (with much success).



Kulam discussions with Australian and local experts



Kulams have inherent recreational benefits



Alas, at the beginning of this visit we were told we could no longer play a role in this important project, and were left humiliated. As usual we suspected some powerful person behind the scenes had been the spoiler.

Bridging Lanka first alerted the authorities in Mannar regarding the connection between the filling of kulams and the flooding of Mannar's urban area. We knew we had successfully got 'kulams' on the government agenda when the Mannar Government Agent formally requested us to undertake an assessment of the kulams in the urban area, with the assistance of UNOPS - which we completed and published the findings in a report.

The valuable partnership continued with UNOPS and officers of the Divisional Secretariat. Together we made significant headway in working with the community around three of the six priority kulams. However, now Bridging Lanka is only permitted to undertake its kulam rehabilitation and beautification work in other than the six earmarked by the Urban Development Authority.

A local Periyakamam woman bemoans the perennial distress caused by flooding

The need to demonstrate what's possible in kulam development

Bridging Lanka has decided to focus its attention on the Jam Fruit Tree Kulam at Periyakamam. We have held initial meetings with the Women's Rural Development Society (WRDS) and its members are keen to see this kulam transformed into an attractive, open space, recreational facility for the whole community.

Approvals must still be sought from the Assistant Commissioner Agrarian Development and the Divisional Secretary for this venture. Framing this more positively, we could develop this kulam as a demonstration model. Once people see and experience the benefits of a rehabilitated and attractive kulam, it will be much easier to sell the concept elsewhere and in the end save the kulams from possible encroachment and destruction.

Top: The WRDS women unanimously support the kulam project
Right: Kelvin and James inspect the Jam Fruit Tree Kulam



Urban Improvements



Senior UDA directors, Steve Dunn, Planning Institute of Australia, and Bridging Lanka staff

UDA's silence halts promising momentum

A usually busy portfolio area, Urban Improvements also suffered at the hands of the fickle fingers of fate. After extremely positive re-connection with the Urban Development Authority (UDA) through two meetings with Bridging Lanka, totalling five hours, and chaired by the Director General (DG) himself, UDA has gone silent.

The DG of the UDA, requested us to draft an MOU between the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and themselves to better coordinate urban development assistance from Australia and also to develop an agenda for a three day 'lock down' workshop to finalise the Mannar urban development plan. With the committed assistance of PIA national director, Steve Dunn, and

members of the urban improvement committee in Australia, both these tasks were completed.

We even arranged for a town planner from Australia, David Robb, to facilitate the workshop in Mannar. David bought his air ticket and made necessary arrangements. However what followed was an unexplained silence from the UDA. Attempts to make contact with the UDA,

even after Jeremy's return to Sri Lanka, were not successful.

We had hoped for a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise between Australia and Sri Lanka and a promising long term collaboration with the UDA as we had already invested significant funds, time and energy into the partnership.



Children's park site in the 2014 wet season



Children's park site in the 2015 wet season



Flash flooding in Mannar

Proposed Children's Park, Santhipuram

Apart from the inundation, the only advancement on this project has been the clearing of the site of mounds of sand and rock belonging to a third party.

The Brisbane planning group must now take on board the likelihood of severe flooding of the proposed site in their design of the children's playground. The first task will be to flood-proof the intended area. It is our hope that the playground will be completed next year. We still require a further \$3,500 for this project.

Business Development

IT Platform

This once social enterprise funded by Bridging Lanka is now an independent for-profit business delivering computer, IT, design and printing solutions to many customers including individuals, government and community agencies, clubs and even the military. ITP has moved into more spacious and attractive offices and Kamal Raj as manager is rebuilding its profitability. With the skills and experience gained from ITP, former partners have moved on to other jobs or gone overseas for further study or work opportunities.



Gone fishing

The fishing season has started once more and Anjelitto's fishing business is doing extremely well. Big and regular catches are making up for the lean 'off season'. He has recommenced making regular repayments of Rs 10,000 per month and his new house is nearing completion.

Women + Community Development



Talks with Mr Sriskanthakumar, Divisional Secretary, re land issues



A store room for discarded furniture was given to the women for a canteen

Catering business on course

A group of war affected widows has embraced an incremental business planning approach developed by Bridging Lanka supporter, Genevieve Golden. During this trip sessions five and six were held. Surprisingly many of the tasks highlighted for action are being undertaken with gusto. The result? A move from a basic cooking operation at one of the women's houses to running the canteen of

The Divisional Secretariat's (DS) Office. Lunch orders are up, as are morning and afternoon tea sittings. Bridging Lanka's Robin and the DS's Women's Development Officer worked with the women to establish the canteen after the Public Health Inspector closed down the previous outlet. Much more regular work is now on offer for the women which means, a more regular income.



The food display cabinet is made in a day



Robin hooks up the new gas stove



Stela's first customers



The cabinet is installed and the canteen ready for business



Tea and short eats are on!



Rewards are starting to flow....slowly

The increasing wages of the women are enabling them to enter the financial mainstream. Stela applied for a loan and bought a motorbike, which makes her life much easier. Ampika Amma, whose house was destroyed in an aerial bombing and who has had to live in a shanty for years, has almost paid off her new, modest but permanent house.



Incremental business planning

Altogether six business planning sessions were held and a list of strategies and actions drawn up. Five priorities were adopted - attract more customers, publicize the business; offer training to the widows; address transport needs, and establish a permanent kitchen. The latter goal has a significant number of bureaucratic hoops to overcome.

To get legal access to land, these are the approvals required:

- i) Divisional Land Use Planning Committee
 - ii) District Land Use Planning Committee
 - iii) Provincial Land Commission
 - iv) Asst Commissioner Cooperative Development
 - v) Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS)
- Only then can we start constructing the kitchen!



Left: a meeting of the widows to review the business plan

Thank you PiCCA!

A \$10,000 funding grant from Brisbane based NGO, *Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid* (PiCCA) is starting to flow to the second phase development of the women's catering business. Director, Warren McMillan, visited Mannar for ten days and became intimately aware of not only the progress of the catering business but went to great lengths to understand the widows' present situation and their struggles, as well as the challenges faced by Bridging Lanka in undertaking reconciliation-based development work. Warren's reflections? "Damn hard work and a challenging context but PiCCA is in the right place backing the right project." Most of PiCCA's funds will go toward building a permanent kitchen. A further \$20,000 is required for its completion.





Rice to Riches – grinding mill

The third incremental business planning session with the Pavan Grinding Mill workers and management led to the exploration of additional micro enterprises connected to the rice mill. What emerged was a one year goal to double the amount of paddy milled, investigate product diversification and so increase employment of widows, develop attractive packaging and arrange business management training.

The micro businesses ideas included spice grinding and rice flour packaging for locals and the tourist market, a rice cultivation tour and the creation of an accounting service which can be of benefit both to the milling operation and other micro and small enterprises. The incremental business planning method was introduced by Genevieve Golding from her work with Indigenous people in Australia.

Jessy Ariyaratnam leads the women in a business planning exercise



WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers are needed in the following areas – landscape architecture, hydraulic engineering, English teaching, graphics, business planning, human resources, Tamil/English interpreters, fundraising, sustainable tourism, construction, social planning, conflict resolution...you name it! Interested in volunteering for 2 weeks to 6 months in northern Sri Lanka? Next volunteering period: from May 2016.

Donkey tour de force



Cynthia and donkey – match made in heaven!

A group of Australian tourists parachuted into Mannar to get ‘down and dirty’ with donkeys! They witnessed the start of our Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) program which brought together children with special needs with the gentlest of Mannar’s donkeys to improve the wellbeing of these differently abled children. They visited several Bridging Lanka projects and saw first-hand its benefits for the people. They toured Mannar District and started to form a heart connection with this frontier place. Seven days of exposure to the donkeys left an indelible impression on the visitors and an impassioned vow to support Mannar’s favourite mascot.

Magical mystical journey of the heart

Uniting Journeys, a travel agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, organised a two week tour extravaganza of Sri Lanka including a whole week dedicated to Bridging Lanka’s donkey welfare and other development programs in Mannar. Daily, the tourists fed and groomed donkeys, learnt about their care and handling and assisted the specially-abled children to overcome their fears to connect deeply with these lovable creatures. Tears were shed when tourist and parent alike witnessed the special bond forming between child and donkey. With courage, the children replaced fear with love for this derided animal. It was ironic that two marginalised groups – children with a disability and despised donkeys were bringing so much joy to so many!



Tilahun shares a moment of delight with a MARDAP child



MARDAP parents pledge to come again

What is DAT?

Donkey Assisted Therapy (DAT) is the use of donkeys in therapeutic work with humans. These donkeys can be included in counselling, teaching and education, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, as agents of light-heartedness as well as for anger reduction.

Donkeys can also be used to comfort the lonely, the war-affected or those facing loss. For the differently abled, through contact with donkeys, they can learn life skills like confidence, self-esteem, communication and courage. Recent research points to the effectiveness of donkey therapy as a catalyst for improved physical, emotional and mental wellbeing for children, those with a disability and the elderly.



Mannar – up close and personal

The tourists had full on exposure to donkeys, others of Bridging Lanka's projects and also the sights and sounds of Mannar. Some of the tour highlights included a visit to the famed Baobab tree, places of worship, our projects including the rice mill and the women's catering company and eating baked fish at a picnic at Kunchukulam.



Tourists' assessment

On their evaluation forms without exception, the tourists stated that the most wonderful aspect of their tour was the interaction with the donkeys, having the Donkey Sanctuary staff on hand and being a part of the special experience of seeing the differently abled children befriending the donkeys for the first time. They discovered the gentleness and beauty of the donkeys, saw what the DAT program could deliver and learnt a lot about these amazing creatures.



Thank you! Donkey Sanctuary & AAA

Donkey Sanctuary UK and Animal Aid Abroad (Australia) have amply demonstrated their commitment and generosity towards our donkey welfare efforts. DS sent three of their experts to Mannar! They engaged the tourists and provided us with the information and tools needed to establish the first **donkey assisted therapy** program in Asia. Tilahun, DAT Program Coordinator and Dr Yohannes, Veterinary Surgeon, both from DS Ethiopia, and our close friend, colleague and vet, Dr Ramesh from DS India, joined us for nine days. All three had beautiful spirits, tremendous commitment towards donkeys and awesome expertise to boot! AAA has financially supported us for one year and this translates into daily care for our donkeys. Thanks Janet and your committed followers!



Left to right: Tilahun, Jeremy, Dr. Ramesh and Dr. Yohannes

Tourism related businesses

The Uniting Journeys tour was deemed a success and there is every likelihood that this may be a regular occurrence. This most recent tour compelled Bridging Lanka to develop more tourism-based responses. We pushed for better guest house facilities, improved our organisation of half and one day tours, trialled a tourist guide program and conducted Tamil cuisine based cooking classes under the name - *Quily's Kitchen*. One of our dedicated volunteers, Diarne Kreltshheim, worked with Quily to develop a business plan for the latter. We have discovered that Mannar has many unrecognised features that are valued by tourists and foreign visitors.



Fawly Tours

Diarne, more than a pretty face, coined a new name for our tour enterprise, "Fawly Tours", after accompanying one. It is a case of expect the unexpected. Another stop-over was squeezed into the regular itinerary – a visit to Mannar's sewerage recycling plant. When the organisers were asked, "Why?" The reply was, "because it's new! Isn't it wonderful?" Hmmm – a real local take on tours!



Social Cohesion



Star Eagle cricket champions!

Bridging Lanka has been a major sponsor of a team which has done so much for spreading the gospel of cricket to the north. Tirelessly they have organised annual premier league hardball cricket tournaments in a football dominated region. So often they have been runners up but this year, they won! This inspiring group of youngsters are Mannar's future hope. They use the game of cricket to reconcile village, district and national rivalries and have fun to boot! Bridging Lanka is proud to be one of their biggest fans.

Life Matters in Mannar

Although two recent meetings were cancelled due to heavy rains and flooding, a local youth committee formed in October is keen to continue with the LMIM program. Bridging Lanka staff are supporting them to plan relevant activities.

The *Life Matters in Mannar* program aims to explore ways to nurture an intrinsically-based moral and ethical foundation in the lives of Mannar's young people as a basis for personal as well as district development.

The LMIM committee has set simple yet far-reaching goals:

- Develop ourselves as young people through reflection and personal change;
- Reach out to young people in other parts of Mannar District to build leadership, moral strength and civic mindedness;
- Transform Mannar District in practical ways through the helping hands of youth.

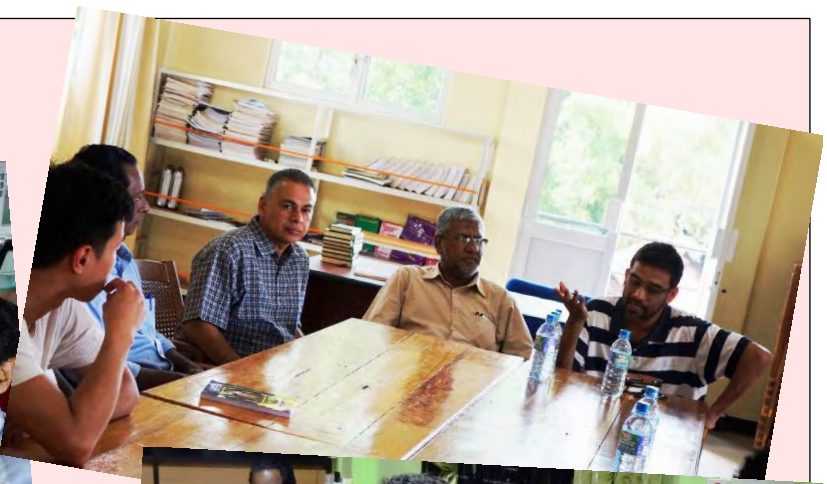


IofC Invasion

The glow of the Initiatives of Change (IofC) August program was rekindled when IofC-ers from India and Sri Lanka visited Mannar to share their personal stories of transformation, encourage participants to have a quiet time of reflection every day and to challenge them to be the change each young person wanted to see in Mannar.



Bridging Lanka Staff Retreat



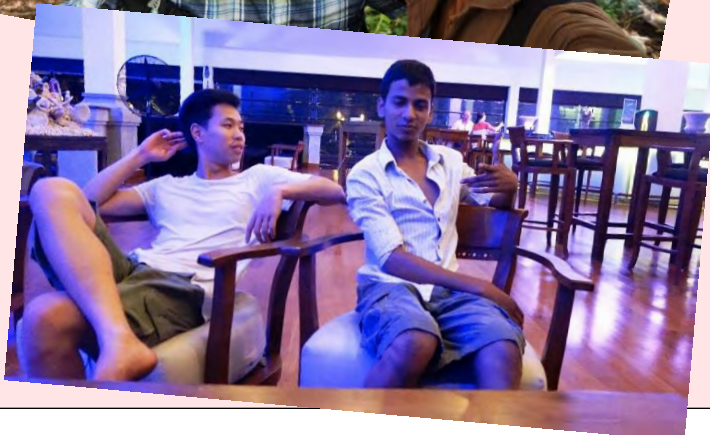
Bridging Lanka in Batticaloa

Bridging Lanka staff come from all walks of life and were casualties of the war in various ways. Two major setbacks include a disrupted education and livelihood and having being shaped by a context of violent division and strife.

In Bridging Lanka, as we regroup around different values like a 'no enemies' approach and the bridging of ethnic, religious, geographic, gender, ageist and educational divides, significant worldview readjustment and mindset change is required. No easy task as we rub up against our own anger, prejudice and hatred.

Twice a year we hold staff retreats at which we have fun as well as address the heavy stuff, of the divisions in the team, the challenges of the work and the direction to take amidst obstruction. This time it was Batticaloa's turn to host us.

We are on a journey together and we know not the destination. We are learning to live with and love one another, improve our professional capacity, learn to resolve our conflicts and serve the people of Mannar and Sri Lanka with earnestness, intelligence and integrity.



Special meetings



LtoR: Mr Danesh Cassie Chetti, Mr Jeremy Liyanage, Mr Chandrasena Maliyadde, Mr Varuna Ponnampereuma

Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR)

The first meeting with the director and officers of ONUR was in Mannar, at the invitation of the GA. ONUR set up by the current president and chaired by former president Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga aims to “lead, facilitate, support and coordinate matters related to national unity and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.”

The task for the one hundred or so community based agencies gathered was to review the draft Mannar District Development Plan. A brief presentation by Bridging Lanka impressed the ONUR officers.

This was followed up by a meeting in Colombo, arranged by Mr Vijitha Yapa, with the Director General, Mr Chandrasena Maliyadde, Director, Mr Danesh Cassie Chetti and Senior Officer, Mr Varuna Ponnampereuma. A promised 40 minute meeting became a two hour event. There was genuine interest in our work, approach and scope and a pledge to partner with and support us. Two days later the DG had already followed up on some of the requests for help that Bridging Lanka had made.



The ONUR team in Mannar

Bridging Lanka asked ONUR for assistance with the following:

- Identifying tourism development partners;
- Meeting with the Minister of Sustainable Development to explore kulam protection;
- Partner with Rotterdam for water-proofing Mannar
- Negotiate with Wildlife Conservation & Animal Production & Health to support our donkey management and welfare strategy;
- Assistance to develop context-sensitive responses to youth suicide prevention;
- Addressing the intra and inter village ethnic and religious divides;
- Meeting with the Governor of the Northern Province.



Richard discusses M4M with John and Grace

Miles 4 Mannar

Bridging Lanka directors met with Her Excellency Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Education, Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe and got their support for the proposed fundraising project, Miles 4 Mannar.

M4M is planned as a 7 day sponsored journey by vehicle to Mannar to raise funds for 1,000 female headed households in Anuradhapura (Mihintale Division) and Mannar Districts.

Funds will be used to create income generating micro and small business enterprises as well as village infrastructure development. It is a national reconciliation project and we are aiming for the ambitious Rs 500 million (AU\$ 5 mil) target. The Chief Priest of Mihintale Sacred City through the "Mihintalaa Jana Pavura" has also given his support.



Richard de Zoysa – chief M4M driver - with Visakha Tillekeratne and Minister Samarasinghe

Volunteers to Mannar



John Nguyenhui

The coding expert! For two months, John from Melbourne with a business and IT background volunteered with us. He picked up some important skills like cooking and learning bad words in Tamil but connected deeply with the locals. John worked hard to develop the 'back end' of a computer program to gather guesthouse visitor data as a basis for better tourism planning. Daily, John also worked tirelessly caring for the donkeys.



Roysdan Mahenthiran

Awaiting A Level results, Roysdan joined us as a volunteer for three months. He supported our staff in various areas -donkey projects, financial recording, guesthouse data inputting and a host of other jobs. Roysdan was cheeky, happy and a delight. He even organised a donkey awareness program to influence his friends to adopt the donkey cause. Roysdan was most helpful in caring for our Aussie tourists.



Helen Gibbs

With years of psych nursing experience, we engaged Helen in a more challenging area – youth suicide. As numbers rise we were compelled to better understand what was going on. Helen spent long hours researching, undertaking agency visits and interviews and compiling a report on this suicide. To lighten her days, Helen took to shopping like a duck to water! Her purchases of saris, skirts and blouses boosted the local economy.



Warren McMillan

Warren, Brisbane-based PiCCA Director, was a keen observer and fountain of wise counsel. His support of me during trying times was invaluable. His vast experience both in government and multiculturalism assisted in making better sense of local inter-ethnic and religious schisms. Warren was chilled, warm and generous and undertook many writing tasks for us. He said his two weeks in Mannar were too short!



David

A wonder to behold! Single-handedly, David took on taming donkeys that were proving untameable, cleaned the compound, fed and groomed the equines. His contribution outstripped our wildest expectations. It was a case of 'mad donkeys and an Englishman in the noonday sun'! From morning to evening David toiled for donkeys and daily ended in a lather of sweat. David suggested many wise improvements.

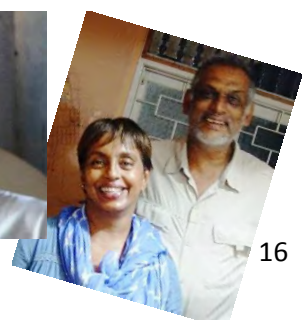
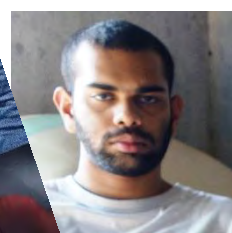


Diarne Kreltszheim

Mad as a meat axe and as smart as a tack is Diarne from Melbourne. During her two week sojourn, Diarne, with a business background, focused on completing a business plan for "Quily's Kitchen", a new tourist venture offering cooking classes for the culinarily bent. A methodical step by step approach fuelled by kottu roti and chilled wine with a dash of wicked humour was a unbeatable combination.

Visitors to Mannar

1. Shafy Alikhan - good friend from Rockhampton, Australia, and Mannar
2. Anne Perera, a potential 'next year' volunteer from Singapore
3. Haritha Wijetunga, International Alert undertaking research on diasporas
4. The Jayakodys from Colombo



Project partnership



Bridging Lanka partners with Global Development Group for project J766N, a Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade approved Non-Government Organisation carrying out quality humanitarian aid and development projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions.

Global Development Group takes responsibility for the project, providing a governance role and assisting in the areas of planning, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure that the project is carried out to Australian requirements.

Donations

Tax deductible donations from Australia can be made direct to our partner Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993). Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J766N. For more information visit: www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ766N. To donate from other countries, please contact info@globaldevelopment.org.au

Click to give: PayPal: www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ766N or credit card: www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ766N

Full instructions: <http://bridginglanka.org/donate.html> and follow the prompts for **PayPal, cheque, direct deposit or credit card** donations.



Bridging Lanka Ltd is a not-for-profit company **ABN:** 92 146 209 297 **ACN:** 146 209 207

Address: Ross House, Level 4, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne Vic 3000

Postal address: 28 Mellor Street, Kedron QLD 4031

Tel Oz: +61 403 694 132 **Tel SL:** +94 771 023 981

E: director@bridginglanka.org **W:** www.bridginglanka.org **FB:** Bridging Lanka

Get involved in Sri Lanka - development projects, business advice and planning, volunteering, proposal writing, government negotiations, skills development, English language teaching

Get involved in Oz – communications, dialogue discussions, project management, organisational development, fundraising, committee roles (advocacy, PR, finance, web, admin, strategic planning)

Contacts

- Jeremy Liyanage, CEO **M:** 0403 694 132 **E:** jeremy.liyanage@gmail.com
- Lindy Drew-Tsang **M:** 0457 391 669 **E:** lindabelle07@gmail.com
- Prabakaran Ponnuthurai, Director **M:** 0469 846 026 **E:** ponnuthuraip@yahoo.com
- Steve Dunn, Director **Mobile:** 0417 382 740 **E:** stevedunn@bigpond.com
- Parathithasan Shelliah, Director **M:** 0411 864 554

Thank you for your support