



ProjectsAbroad

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad



Sri Lanka



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EXPERIENCE SRI LANKA

2013 August- Issue no 101

THE LAND LIKE NO OTHER

Weekend trip with the 2 week special group in August!

I was lucky to join Aruni (our care-and teaching supervisor) on the trip with our last and lovely batch of 2 week specials. Aruni who has been spending almost day and night with these lovely "kids" as she calls them even though they object to that term and I'm sure she loved every minute of it!



We took off from Negombo early Saturday to head to Kandy. Kandy is a beautiful town placed in the hill country in the centre of Sri Lanka.

On the way we had a Sri Lankan breakfast which included rice, dhal-curry, potato-curry, fish and string-hoppers. As you're probably realizing this breakfast is very different from what the volunteers are used to from home but they coped well.



After breakfast we got on the road again and first thing we did in Kandy was going to the Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens is a fairly big garden with an herb garden, an orchid house and big green and flowery areas.

Message from the Editor

Dear volunteers,

Today we are issuing the 101th Newsletter and this will probably be the last newsletter I am doing as it will be the responsibility of a skilled new colleague from next month. It was great to do the newsletter for last 70+ months and I'm really thankful to all those who helped me in this specially by providing articles and photos.

As usual August had been a very busy month with loads of volunteers. We also had a two-weeks-special volunteer group in Sri Lanka. The two-weeks-special program had been conducted in Negombo which is one of the main areas now Projects Abroad Sri Lanka is involved.

This month, Projects Abroad also managed to conduct all regular activities such as Medical Camps.

The outreach took place at Welapitiya Montessori in Panadura and it was a greatly timed as it was the school holiday. The desks and chairs very much needed the painting and our volunteers completed the task including parapet wall and the school building.

We were also very lucky to have the chance to receive Dr. Peter Slowe (Founder Chairman – Projects Abroad) and Mr. Terry Thornhill (Director) in Sri Lanka for a visit in August.

Thanks again for all the support extended. I also take this opportunity to wish good luck for the next colleague who is taking over the task of making newsletter from next month onwards.

Enjoy reading.

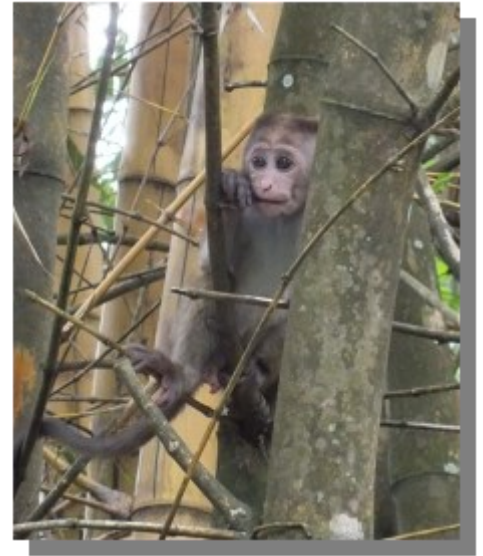
Gishan Perera

Desk Officer - Sri Lanka

We were also very lucky to see lots of monkeys and get very close to them as you see in the pictures beneath.



The experience
was met with
BIG excitement!!!!



After visiting the Botanical Gardens we had lunch and were lucky to try on some saris:



Then we went to the local market. The volunteers got to get all the Sri Lankan goods such as tea, spices and Aladdin pants! After shopping we went to watch the traditional Kandyan dancing and fire walk.

At the end of that exciting but also tiring day we had dinner and played cards on the roof top at the guest house we stayed at.

On Sunday morning we had an English breakfast which was met with OPEN arms by the volunteers! Then we headed out for the Temple of the Tooth.

Temple of the Tooth is a massive Buddhist Temple that as the name indicates houses Buddha's tooth! It was built in the 17th century.



Because of the Esala Perahera festival there were about 16 elephants at the Temple which we were very lucky to get close to. We even got to touch some of them.



The temple was the last highlight of the trip and after the visit we had lunch and headed back to Negombo. Thank you all for a very lovely trip! Both Aruni and I enjoyed it a lot and we wish you all the best!

Nichole Antonia Mouritsen

Social Manager

Sri Lanka



August 2 Weeks Special

I get to the host family through a maze of road and lanes, turning left and right and wondering how on earth I would show the August 2 Week Specials how to get to their placement, when I would NEVER figure it out myself. The tuk tuk guy kept stopping every turn to ask how to get to this place where I could not even pronounce the street name. So we bounce along and when I finally thought I would have to call the host family to say "Hi, I'm Aruni...and I'm looking for your house. But here's the thing...I'm lost," the tuk tuk guy slams the brakes and says "this house". Of course I am skeptical, but the host father comes rushing out and I am ushered in to find my August 2 Weeks Special sitting outside on garden chairs having tea and biscuits. Jet lag and exhaustion poured from their faces and I saw the struggle to stay focused. Introductions done we talked about the activities, Bosco Pura and what we would do the next day and their weekend travel.

With suggestions that they could go to the beach after work, we decided to head out to the beach where we got hassled by an old man trying to sell one of his many wares hung over his arm. Laughing and more relaxed, our highlight was when Maya (one of the volunteers) fell back into the water fully clothed... couldn't stop laughing!!

Our first day of work had 65 children, the next brought in 95 children and by the third day we had 130 children and the volunteers keeping the children busy with face masks, hand printing (and making a total happy mess out of it all), paper plate elephants and more. A lot of noisy fun with the children when we did a clean-up day, slashing and clearing up trash over the grounds.

The weekend held the Kandy trip where 10 young and excited volunteers, Nicky (our social manager) and myself went to Peradeniya Botanical gardens, shopping at the curio market and a tour into the Temple of the Tooth. That was fun!!!

Coming in for the second week, it definitely felt a bit less overwhelming as a lot of the children had down to Mannar, far away for a Catholic feast festival with their families and we were left with about half our original number. It was also wonderful to have to be part of celebrating one of the Sister's birthday's that day with the children doing songs and dances...and best of all....coffee cake....YUMMMY!!!

So we are into Day Three at Bosco Pura with the 2 Weeks Special and doing summer collages and hand tattoos, doing a mural of a jungle scene with Mickey Mouse hiding

behind a coconut tree, and making jewellery where even the older boys joined in. So far, fun and I know I am not looking forward to Friday when I get to take them to Colombo for the city tour and lunch, then take them back to their host families and say

AruniJayawardane

Teaching & Care Supervisor

Sri Lanka



Date : August 23,2013
Location : Welapitiya Temple
Task : Painting wall,Chairs and Desks....

Social Outreach at Welapitiya!

On Friday the 16th of August we had our monthly Social Outreach at Welapetiya Montessori. Welapetiya Montessori is a Preschool for children between 3-5 years old. At this very moment it's the summer holidays but usually there's about 30 children going to the school every day and we send volunteers there to help out with some simple English teaching and different activities.



Everyone's getting started cleaning up the chairs before starting to paint them...

On Friday morning we were 4 staff members and 25 volunteers taking part in the outreach.

Happy painter-Maria :)



Ilona painting the fence :)



Valentina is working hard with a big smile on her face :)

We painted the inside-and outside walls, the fence and all the tables and chairs. Weeeeell to be honest we did quite a bit of painting on each other as well.



These days are always so messy – but I guess that’s part of the fun.



The end result of the tables and chairs!



All the lovely volunteers after finishing the work!



Thanks to everyone for your great effort and awesome company! :)

Nichole Antonia Mouritsen

Social Manager