

The Association for Education and Wellbeing (AEW)

Newsletter - December 2024

Thanks to your generous contributions, we have made progress on both ongoing projects and added a third school to that list – the Senkadagala Special School which caters to children suffering from hearing or vision loss.

Our first Project - Habaraththawala Vidyalaya



This project moved from building classrooms to focusing on the things that would really facilitate the education of those children. The final work such as grilles, whiteboards and stage curtains for the building were completed. We distributed the first set of starter packs, which included books, stationery, pencils, etc., and a school bag, for the children who began Year 1; six computers and visual aids for English teaching. Much of this was supported by individual donors. We also started the first set of scholarships for three deserving students this year. This, together with the distribution of other teaching aids, equipment and books, is an area that we hope will expand in the future. More details about the scholarship scheme is included below.

Our second project – Ganesha Vidyalam, Rozella, Hatton



Our second project, in the tea-growing hill country district of Hatton has also made excellent progress. A simple water supply was provided, eighty sets of classroom tables and chairs, filing cabinets and white boards for four classrooms and a school notice board were provided. In addition, the clothes donated by so many of you, amounted to twenty-one tea chests. They have been sent and distributed to the school community who received them with much gratitude. The cost of this support was \$4,650.

But there are many more needs to be filled and they are in the pipeline. They include the distribution of school bags, books and Stationary items to students from years one to eleven, school shoes for year one children and table tennis equipment. We have committed most of these items already, with the available funds.

Our third project – Senkadagala Special School

Support for the hearing and vision impaired children whose needs are addressed by this school in Dodanwela, Kandy, has just begun. The first activity which is budgeted for completion very shortly, is a package of outdoor activity tools and equipment.



Scholarships

The scholarship scheme is one that we hope will expand significantly in the future as it allows individuals to get involved directly, on a more personal basis.

The aim is to assist promising children whose families are known to be facing financial hardships, to continue their studies. The school is asked to nominate up to three children from each year level.

- The contribution is currently \$200 per year (just \$4 per week) which will ensure that these children have the essential items required to continue their education.
- Individuals or groups are invited to sponsor one or more children with a commitment of \$200 for at least a year.
- Each sponsor will be linked to a child, who will provide an update on their progress 2-3 times per year, directly to the sponsor.
- AEW will ensure that your sponsorship funds are transferred to the children's savings account, on a monthly basis. A sum of around LKR 3,000 per month is currently proposed.
- Continuation of the scholarship will depend on the recipient child continuing to perform at an adequate level, which will be assessed by a panel of teachers and the sponsor, as well as AEW.

The annual fundraising event, Afterglow, is scheduled for 15 March 2025

As in previous years we expect this to be our main fundraiser for the year as well as an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy an evening with good friends. The proceeds will go towards our three current projects and others that may be identified later. Please reserve the date and organise a table (or more!) with your friends. If you cannot organise a full table but would like to attend and support, please contact us and we will help make up a table.

None of this work could have been accomplished without your sustained support and the dedicated efforts of our colleagues in Sri Lanka to oversee the work and manage funds and relationships, including the various authorities. For this we and the children we support, are very grateful.

Please visit our website: aew.org.au for full details of our projects and events, and how to contribute to our work.

As always, we thank you for your generous contributions and look forward to your continued support and participation. Your kind Donations are always welcome anytime.

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