

Lighthouse Community Pool

AdoptSriLanka Project Update Report

Background

The Lighthouse Community Pool officially opened in July 2008. The pool was built to provide a permanent community facility that would assist marginalised individuals and groups, particularly those affected by the 2004 Asian Tsunami, to learn how to swim and overcome their fear of the water. The pool was constructed in memory of all those who tragically lost their lives as a result of the 2004 Asian Tsunami.

The community pool was constructed and is managed by project partners AdoptSriLanka, Jetwing and SOS Velsen with generous funding from Surrey Schools through the Association of School and College Leaders. Technical support and training of swimming instructors has been given by SwimLanka.



Location

The pool has been constructed on land donated by Jetwing Hotels in Dadalla, Galle. This is a fantastic location to service the local community, as it is close to public transport and the main town.

Pool Features

The 25 metre Pool includes a small pool for younger children or those particularly nervous about entering the larger pool. It has been constructed to include a high boundary wall to ensure privacy of swimmers as well as change rooms with showers and toilets, an office, foyer area and viewing pavilion for parents and teachers.

Since opening, additional works have been done which include improvements to the change room facilities, landscaping and additional barriers to the pavilion area to ensure it is safe without obstructing the view to the pool.

Pool Staff

The pool is staffed by:

- Pool Manager
- Head Coach
- Coach
- Cleaner

The Trustees of the Pool are:

- AdoptSriLanka represented by Geoffrey Dobbs
- Jetwing PLC represented by Hiran Cooray
- SOS Velsen represented by Susantha Punchihewa

The Women's Only Classes:

- Pool Manager
- Administration Officer
- 3 Female Coaches



Opening Hours:

The pool is open to the public 7 days per week with special times allocated to provide community classes at no cost and other time slots for private classes at low cost.

Mondays

- Women's Only Classes – 2.30pm to 5.30pm
With 3 specially trained female instructors
Galle Women's Swimming Club

Tuesdays to Fridays

- 10am to 4pm – free classes for school children and marginalised community groups
- 4pm to 6pm – low fee private classes (to generate income to contribute to the ongoing maintenance)

Saturdays & Sundays

- 10am to 4pm - low fee private classes



Participation

The pool continues to become increasingly popular as its reputation grows and word spreads about the initiative.

- 308 children have completed private tuition classes
- 461 school children have completed free school classes
- 531 community members utilised the pool for lap swimming

The majority of participants come from the Galle town and surrounding areas. Attempts are now being made to expand participation to schools from inland areas by fundraising to assist them with transport to and from the pool.

Participating Schools and Community Groups:

- Suddharma College
- St Aloysius College
- Sacred Heart Convent
- Ahangama Shariputhra
- Boosa Maha Vidyalaya
- Kanangara Maha Vidyalaya
- SOS Children's Villages
- Thomas Gall International School
- Siri Sumana Junior
- Galle schools sports team
- Maliduwa Sariputhra M.V
- Al-Mubarak M.V.
- Unawatuna M.V.
- Sri Sumangalodaya M.V
- Sugathananda M.V.
- Zahira College
- All Saints M.V.
- C.W.W. Kannangara M.V.
- Gintota M.V.
- Vidyaloaka M.V.
- Hapugala M.V.
- BTS M.V.
- Devapathiraja M.V.
- Hagoda Sooriya M.V.
- Senahasa Foundation
- St.Aloysius College

School Holiday Free Coaching Clinics

Free coaching clinics are run during the August and December school holidays for school children from the Galle community.

139 children participated in these clinics in December 2008 and 131 children attended the clinics in August 2009. Plans are currently underway to expand these clinics for the December 2009 school holidays. It is hoped that over 300 children will take advantage of these clinics throughout December.



2010 and Beyond

The Lighthouse Community Pool Trust hopes to expand the current program to encourage more schools to include the free swimming classes in their school's curriculum.

We are currently seeking the support of donors to fund two additional positions to make this expansion possible. By employing an additional Coach as well as an Administration and Marketing Officer to promote the pool throughout the wider community, we will be able to ensure that the pool is utilised to its maximum capacity.

Additional financial support will also enable ASL to coordinate transport for school groups located in rural inland areas who are currently unable to access the pool due to financial difficulties.

Funding Requirements

Approximate costs per annum:

- 22,000 USD per year for salaries
- 7000 USD per year for pool maintenance, chlorine, staff expenses & amenities
- 6000 USD per year for children's events, transport assistance & special projects

Fundraising Target: 35,000 USD per annum (175,000 USD for 5 years)

