



FROM DR. QUINTUS DE ZYLVA

**Chairman Sri Lanka Cricket
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SRI LANKA'S PRECIOUS WILDLIFE



AuSLMAT's visit to Sri Lanka always includes a break at a wild life sanctuary. Our trip in July 2013 was just as exciting as previous visits to Yala. Leopard is not always seen and this one had found a great position from which to observe the surrounding jungle. Baby elephants are protected by the mother and another female elephant as shown in this picture.

The drought in Sri Lanka has forced the closure of Yala for the month of September.

Yala is said to have the largest number of leopards in the world. There has been only one occasion when a leopard has shown aggression towards a safari vehicle. Elephants such as "Gemunu" on the other hand have been photographed looking in to a jeep. Visitors are advised never to feed a wild animal.

Roy Rogers said of his horse Trigger "A four legged friend, a four legged friend, He'll never let you down"(1952)



Cricket Gear from Melbourne to Valaichennai



The Jolly Boys Cricket Club of Valaichennai were happy to receive several boxes of cricket gear kindly donated by boys playing for the Ferntree Gully and District Cricket Association. Paul from Saxon Sports of Bayswater and Adrian Brown and senior executives from FTGDCA made significant contributions to what was sent to the east coast. The donation was much appreciated by cricket fanatics who have been starved of such equipment for many a year. Much of the clothing and equipment was donated soon after the tour of Sri Lanka.

AuSLMAT is proud to act as the conduit for such donations that form a part of the awakening of the east coast of Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA'S PRICELESS WILD ELEPHANTS



Elephants are a big attraction at the Yala Game Reserve and this one wandered across the Chaaya Wild carpark when we were there - much to the astonishment of guests. Their interaction with safari jeeps has recently been the subject of much advice - the beautiful tuskered "Gemunu" was

photographed rummaging in a jeep looking for food. Hence the advice that visitors should not attempt to feed these majestic animals or even carry fresh food in the vehicles.

Elephants have great memories. Lawrence Anthony - author of the best selling book "The Elephant Whisperer" was a legend in Africa. He rescued threatened elephants including the Baghdad Zoo elephants after the US invasion in 2003 and rehabilitated them in a nature reserve that he set up in Africa. He died on the 7th of March 2012. Two days after his death all the wild elephants in this nature reserve turned up at his home lead by two large matriarchs having patiently walked over twelve miles - much to the amazement of his wife and two children. Separate wild herds arrived in droves to say goodbye to their beloved man-friend. HOW DID THEY KNOW HE HAD DIED? Their supreme intelligence and precise timing caused Lawrence's wife Francoise much heartache - they had not been to his home prior to that day for well over a year. They left a day later to continue their life in the wild having paid their respects to the master who saved them from the horror that humans can cause these innocent animals.

Pathi Harn almost crushed to death zoo keeper Lucy Melo at the Taronga Zoo on October 19th last year. He was a 'miracle birth' after having been pronounced dead in his mother's womb two days earlier. He grew up nursed and cared for by Lucy Melo until one day, during training, he refused to do what she asked and as she tried to leave the enclosure he raised his trunk and crushed her chest against a metal bollard. She was resuscitated by paramedics who took five minutes to restart her heart.

Srilal Miththapala - Past President of the Hotels Association of Sri Lanka- has pleaded for care and caution with visitors to the Yala Sanctuary - he has said remember "Gemunu" is a wild elephant and could be potentially very very dangerous.

John Donne in "The progress of the Soul" 1601 said "Nature's great masterpiece, an elephant; the only harmless great thing".

KRISHAN BARTHELOT - ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY FROM BATTICALOA

KRISHAN is shown here with his father Kingsly a blacksmith by trade and his mother a seamstress. He qualified with BSc Hons from the Moratuwa University and is now an Urban Town Planner with the Urban Town Planning Authority. He designed an Urban Development Plan and a Disaster Preparedness Plan for the City of Mullaithivu. He co-presented a paper at the 2013 Global Resilient Cities Conference in Germany this year. He was elected President of the All Ceylon Young Planners Forum for 2014-2015.



Krishan is a lad from Valichennai who was boarded at the Kalmunai Carmel Fatima College when he reached Grade 9. The family's financial difficulties and the war meant he had no opportunities for tuition in any subjects but he achieved 10 A's in his O Level examination in 2004 and 3 A's in his G.C.E. Advanced Level examination.

Krishan achieved all this inspite of great sadness. He lost 7 of his hostel and school friends in the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 and around 20 relatives at the Dutch Bar tragedy. He is grateful to the Christian Brothers who supported him emotionally during these difficult times and to the Eighty Club in Melbourne and the Burgher Union of Batticaloa who were sponsors of his education.

Krishan also enjoyed sports at school and captained the volleyball and elle teams. Another kind donor gave him a new laptop which he found invaluable for his Geographic Information Systems.

The Australia Sri Lanka Medical Aid Team (AuSLMAT) are proud to be part of the awakening of the east coast of Sri Lanka. Dr. Jennifer Johns has worked with Dr. Arulnithy the only cardiologist at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital. We look forward to meeting Melo (dental surgeon Earavur) and Krishan when we visit Batticaloa in June 2014.