



One of A. J. van der Poorten's stained glass windows in a Flanders Church
(Picture taken by Varuni Vanderpoorten)

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- April 2012 -

While the *Ela Trail* and the soaking pool in the stream were completed, the huge drought that came along in March precluded our enjoying the new addition to the extent we might have. However, with the break in the weather and the return of tropical rain as March draws to a close, we are going to be enjoying its sylvan delights again!

We've also begun another trail to a knoll above HPH from which one has a great view of the valleys and mountain ranges all around us, something that isn't even equaled from out of the windows of our home! There also seems to be the distinct possibility of pitching a tent on this knoll in the shade of the trees that will continue to grace it. Simple delights that add that little bit more to what HPH already has to offer.

We are also in the process of boosting our spring water supply by tapping into yet another spring on our land. More clean, uncontaminated water and lots of it will ensure a significant reduction in our "worry-load" if we ever again experience a drought as unprecedented as the one we've just endured!

April is the month in which Sinhalese and Tamils celebrate in a manner without equal, the arrival of their New Year. And without doubt, religion and ethnicity present no barrier at a time when EVERYONE jumps on the national bandwagon because IT'S PARTY TIME and no one in the world can party like Sri Lankans. After all, they are the ones who coined the phrase, "Neva gilunath,

band choon" which translates, very approximately, to "We will party on board even if the ship goes down." Like all such, this slogan loses a great deal in translation. However, I hope you get the gist of what happens in Sri Lanka during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, a festival that can run for WEEKS in some parts of the country! At HPH, we think we've been able to maintain an ambience, throughout the year, that says, "You are a guest here, in this, the most hospitable of countries in the world and we aim to maintain that tradition for 365 days of the year (366 this year, given the fact that it is a leap year!).

And talking about the Leap Year tradition of the woman proposing to the man, wouldn't **you** like to celebrate a change of marital status at HPH? We'll be glad to provide you with a soft enough pad to kneel on while seeking the hand of the love of (the rest) of your life!

All frivolity aside, though, we'd like to see you here with your significant other and your progeny because HPH is a great place for a family vacation, too.



Warm wishes, Emil & Arlene

For information or to book your accommodation, contact us at:

Home phone: 94-81-380-8007; Mobile: 94-72-284-9770 or by email at emil@halgollaplantationhome.com

Upcoming events in the country

April

Whale and dolphin watching in Mirissa.

Apr 3 - Apr 7 Cricket, 2nd Test, Sri Lanka vs England at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium in Colombo

April 13 & 14: Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Perhaps the biggest holiday of the year!

April is also 'the Season' for Nuwara Eliya as people go up to the hills to escape the heat and humidity of the plains.



Halgolla stream

May

The surfing season at Arugam Bay begins! Rated as one of the top ten surfing destinations in the world.

Whale and dolphin watching in Trinco begins.

May 5 & 6: Vesak Full Moon Holiday commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.

May 10: Cricket - Pakistan tour of Sri Lanka begins and continues into June.



Clerodendron thomsoniae

Did you know? Sri Lanka has been rated as a top tourist destination for 2011 and 2012.

Condé Nast Traveller

www.cntraveller.com/news/2011/december/destinations-to-watch-in-2012/sri-lanka

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html

National Geographic

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2012/sri-lanka-photos/>

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