



From our garden: mangosteens, *Uguressa*, plantains, mango, papaya, passion fruit

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- July 2012 -

I remarked that May was an unseasonably dry month in the last newsletter and here I go again repeating the same refrain in respect of June! Our spring water supply escaped exhaustion by a hair's breadth again but the good news is that efforts to augment it with water of similar origin and quality have been successful. In fact, at the risk of sounding overly optimistic, it seems like Arlene might even have a bigger supply of water with which to grow even more foliage of even better quality!

Our expectations in respect of the Mangosteen crop have been more than realized as the picture at the top of this page will indicate. The durians are also ripening, the breadfruit have escaped the worst depredations of the macaques and we continue to have a few mangoes from a very strangely extended cropping season about which we are NOT complaining!

The Dalada Perahera which is a festival without equal anywhere in the world begins in Kandy towards the end of the month and runs for ten days into August. Apart from the nightly torch-lit procession that traverses the Hill Capital's streets, with its dozens of elaborately-captisoned elephants, hundreds of drummers, dancers and other entertainers and all the pomp and pageantry that goes with this ancient ritual, there is the town of Kandy at Perahera Time, which brings back some great memories to one who lived in that town for nearly a dozen years while attending elementary and high school. There was a very popular song of my youth that went, "Oh! To be in England, now that Spring is here" whose sentiments could well fit the this time and place, with "Kandy" replacing "England" and "Perahera" taking the place of "Spring!" However, be warned, the local event is infinitely more exciting and colourful!



We had one of those "life-changing" events involving Padma - Arlene's "domestic right arm" if ever there was one - whose daughter, Sandhya Kumari, tied the knot on the 21st of June. The happy occasion was celebrated at Padma's home to which the final access was achieved by clambering over a few rocks of fairly significant proportions! The proceedings included all

the traditional trappings inclusive of the traditional table of Sinhala sweets and milk rice. This was followed by the formal part of the ritual, inclusive of the *Poruwa* ceremony. In any event, it was great to do the honours as an attesting witness for the radiant bride and the very proud groom, while a good time was had by all in attendance!

The rugby season has begun and the club for which I used to play in my dim, distant youth, the Kandy Sports Club, is defending the championship which it has held for a decade. Sri Lanka's most popular sport (cricket is more like Sri Lanka's fifth **religion**!) is widely played at school and club level and suffice it to say that what Sri Lankans lack in size they seek to make up for in skill on the rugby field. It makes for interesting entertainment of an afternoon, particularly since one of the participating teams - the Sri Lanka Navy - contains all three sons of the President of Sri Lanka!

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



In case you're wondering whether the little reptile on the left is Puff the Magic Dragon or one of that worthy's cousins, it isn't. It's one of the many fascinating chameleon-like garden lizards which keep tropical insect populations under a little bit of control in our garden.

Speaking of pests, we've had an invasion

of palm squirrels who've decided that our ceiling makes for an ideal location for their quite voluminous nests, gussying up their nesting material with chunks of insulation from our television cable! The problem appears to have been solved, though, by encasing the cable in conduit and using other methods to dissuade the cute little pests from seeking to share our abode on a permanent basis! Our "Heinz 57", Natta (pictured below), also helps to keep the critters away.



The Upcoming Events calendar that follows will give those of you intending to drop by our Serendipitous Isle in August an idea of what awaits you if you are one of the energetic who want to "go there, do that and get the t-shirt!" However, if you want to mix in some laid-back relaxation in a very attractive location, as well, HPH will provide you with the tropical haven you've always dreamt about!

Bye for now and do keep in touch. We are only as far away as your next email or phone call, after all.

Warm wishes, Arlene and Emil

Did you know that HPH is on Trip Advisor?



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

And until July 31, we are offering 10% off the room rate of both of our suites (you must mention this offer when booking).

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla_Plantation_Home-Kandy_Kandy_District_Central_Province.html

Upcoming events in the country

July 2012

July 21, 24, 28, 31, Aug 4 & 7: Cricket, India tour of Sri Lanka at various stadiums

July: The Gathering of Elephants at Minneriya National Park – a comfortable daytrip from HPH

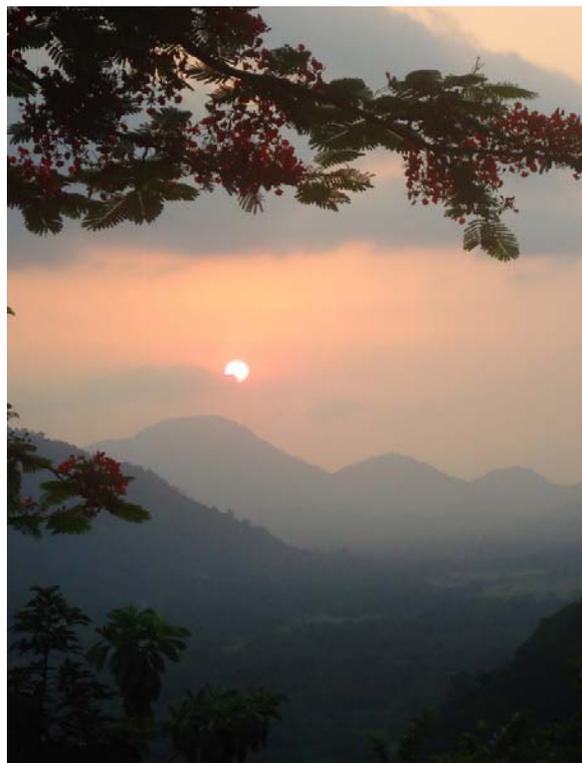
July 19: Kandy Perahera runs through to Aug 2.

July 19: Kataragama Esala Festival runs through to Aug 2

August 2012

Aug 20–Sep 2: ASP Men's Longboard World Surfing Championships at Arugam Bay

* for those who must...most cricket matches can be watched on TV at HPH



Sunset from our front verandah

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