



“Natta” inspecting new on-stream storage of spring water

# Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- November 2012 -

The end of October has certainly brought a mixed bag of good and not-so-good news. First for the not-so-good news. Thanks to several increases in the prices of pretty well **all** the inputs that we need to provide an acceptable level of service at HPH, we've had to revise our charges for the first time since we began operations more than a year ago. It might sound trite to suggest that this was inevitable, given the economic realities of Sri Lanka but that is the simple truth. However, we intend maintaining the new tariff for at least the next 12 months and I hope that by saying so, we don't place a jinx on that promise!

The first piece of good news is that after the longest drought in living memory, during which we were teetering on the edge of an absolute shortage of potable water, the rains arrived and in ample measure! Visitors who were here a matter of days after the monsoon had broken wouldn't believe how dry it had been because the vegetation had turned so lush in such a short time.

Another piece of good news is that we have brought another guest bedroom on stream – the SelvaGamini Double Bedroom – named for the two young men who did most of the renovations and refurbishment that made this possible in such a short time. This light and airy room is marginally smaller than Ben's Suite with a large washroom serving it and with a shower that produces, arguably, the highest pressure of those at HPH!

As expected, the bird population seems to have exploded with the arrival of the monsoon and recent guests were greeted on arrival by a Devil Bird (Forest Eagle Owl) calling from one of the larger trees in the garden just as the sun had set!

The augmentation of our spring-water supply continues apace and we expect that very soon we will have significantly more water available to REALLY expand our flowering plant garden and begin establishing a Butterfly Garden just below

our front yard. Somewhere on this or the next page of this newsletter will be a picture that will give you an idea of what one of the three new water storage areas looks like. They are all not only pretty little ponds but will supply water of as high quality as our existing supply. The necessity to explore this particular need was, perhaps, one of the unforeseen benefits of the terrible drought that we have just weathered.



Putting the new window into the SelvaGamini Room

The post-forest fire photo you will find in this newsletter indicates effect of the unprecedented drought experienced in this area. Fortunately, HPH was not, in any way, affected by that conflagration, thanks, primarily to better management of the environment and vegetation over several generations.

The world's premier tourist guide, The Lonely Planet, has called Sri Lanka **the** place to visit in 2013. Join us there at HPH.

Warm wishes, Arlene and Emil

---

**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](mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com)

## “Best in travel 2013”

from The Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lanka>

**For the month of November we will continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies!”**



Results of the recent brush fire near HPH



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

**Did you know that HPH is on Trip Advisor?**

[www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla\\_Plantation\\_Home-Kandy\\_District\\_Central\\_Province.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla_Plantation_Home-Kandy_District_Central_Province.html)

**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](http://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](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html)

National Geographic

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

## Upcoming events in the country

### November

**Nov 1, 4, 6, 10, 12, 17: Cricket!\*** New Zealand vs Sri Lanka. at various venues around the country.

**Nov 13: Deepavali** is one of the most important festivals for Hindus. Among the activities is the lighting of small clay lamps to signify the triumph of good over evil.

**Nov 15-18: Sri Lanka Design Festival** in Colombo featuring traditional crafts, contemporary fashion, graphic, jewellery and interior design



King coconuts and bananas ready for market

### December

**Christmas** in the tropics! Colombo in particular gets all dolled up for Christmas. Though there's no snow and no cold, Santa, parties and Christmas shopping and cheer abound.

**New Year's Eve** is another event celebrated with great enthusiasm around the country.

**Hot Air Balloon Rides** at Dambulla and Sigiriya

**Whale and Dolphin-Watching** at Kalpitiya and Mirissa

**Bird watching** – the “migrants” have returned

**White-water rafting** at Kitulgala

**Adam's Peak** climbing season begins

### January

**Jan 14: Thai Pongal** – a harvest festival celebrated by the Tamils.

**The HSBC Galle Literary Festival:** normally held in January, the 7th annual festival will be held March 13-17, 2013 at Galle featuring a wide variety of local and international authors and other events.

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

**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](mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com)