



Front driveway at HPH

# Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- October 2012 -

At the time of writing – September 30<sup>th</sup> – we’ve had no change in the weather and our seemingly never-ending quest for new trickles of water continues. However we are better off than most because all guests and residents at HPH not only have good water to drink but can bathe or shower every day, a luxury that many in our neck of the woods do not enjoy right now!

It’s hard to put a bright face on all of this, but one thing that is transparently obvious is that, thanks to a family history of respecting the environment in the land that we have control over, we are far better off than thousands of people who have had to reap the bitter fruit of abuse of the land. The Dik-Oya, which those of you who have been to HPH will recall as the small river you first cross when you come off the main highway on to our approach road, is **bone dry**! NO ONE I have spoken to can ever remember this to have happened before! And remember that this is one of the two source streams of one of Sri Lanka’s major rivers, the Deduru Oya.

If one needs proof of climate change and the exacerbation of that by the abuse of the environment through monumentally stupid legislation followed by the inappropriate use of a finite resource, it is staring us in the face right now! And now that I’ve got that off my chest, let me try and talk about things less negative!

Sports are big in Sri Lanka, as elsewhere. The second phase of the national club rugby competition has kicked into gear and goes on for another two weeks. The World 20/Twenty Cricket Championships are also currently underway as well at three locations – Suriyawewa in the deep south, Premadasa Stadium in Colombo and Pallekelle in our very own Central Province, close to Kandy. The last-named is considered one of the most scenic cricket grounds in the world in an absolutely magnificent setting with Hunnasgiriya mountain and the Knuckles range as a backdrop. And it has us green with envy because it looks so lush and green even though it is only about 40 kms from drought-stricken us!

We have completed the new Driver’s/Guide’s room and it looks very nice indeed and provides potential occupants with even more privacy than our previous arrangement, particularly since Drivers and Guides often appreciate a “break” from those with whom they spend their working time!

We have also gussied up the outbuildings behind the house and they now look quite respectable with a new coat of limewash!

Some of our mango trees are absolutely laden with blossoms and even if only a fraction of those flowers turn to fruit, we should be doing very well in a few months time!



Drawing of mango flowers and fruits from *Icones plantarum rariorum* by N. J. Jacquin (1786-1793)



The two bee colonies that we set up in the environs look well established and we’ve augmented their diet with sugar syrup in the event that the extremely dry conditions set them back in their nectar gathering!

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

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There doesn't appear to be too great a diminution in the bird population around the house despite the drought, but we are still looking forward to the explosion of sound that will greet us each morning once the monsoon breaks!

Thanks to the extremely dry conditions and the increase of dust in the atmosphere, both of us came down with rather bad colds and coughs which were, however, brought under control with a combination of allopathic medications and home remedies. We are, once more, fighting fit and raring to go and looking forward to the stimulation of the company of those who are more than paying guests and become, without exception it seems, life-long friends. So come join our circle!

Warm wishes,  
Arlene and Emil

*"Since the HPH Newsletters are not simply advertisements for our facility nor meant to "entice" potential guests, we always seek to provide accurate information about what it's like at the time of writing. Accordingly, the October HPH Newsletter might not come across as "all sweetness and light" given the weather conditions we are currently experiencing! That said, even droughts as unprecedented as the current one don't last forever and we expect that the moisture from above will arrive before too long and things will return to their usual verdant condition thereafter."*

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

**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)



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

**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

**October: Birdwatching** - the migrant birds begin to arrive; about 150 species come to spend the winter months in Sri Lanka, many of which can be seen at HPH

**Women's World Cricket, T20** continues with the semi-finals on Oct 1, 4th & 5th and the finals on Oct 7. Unfortunately the Sri Lankan women's team is not in the running!

**Oct 5 - 14:** World Spice Festival in Colombo featuring food and chefs from around the world at various hotel venues

**Oct 6 - 7:** National Kite Festival, Galle Face Colombo

**Oct 7:** Colombo marathon

**October 17 - 19:** Sri Lankan Airlines Golf Classic, Colombo

**Kite-surfing season** at Puttalam ends in October (starts in May).



## November

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

**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

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

**White-water rafting** at Kitulgala

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