



View down the Weuda valley

# Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind  
– December 2013 –

The last month of the year is upon us and while it is time to take stock of what has turned into a very busy and eventful year, we've got our work cut out for us with all the accelerated activity that is traditional at HPH in the festive season.

Arlene is putting the finishing touches to preparations for our Annual Staff Christmas Party, which is now in its 7th year! The numbers attending keep growing with those who've ceased to be "children" and have become "young adults" insisting on joining their parents (and grand-parents) in this seasonal celebration. Great fun, but a bit daunting in finding space for the growing numbers and picking gifts for all those who'll be there on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. Ah well, it's a small enough effort to show our appreciation for those who are very much a part of our life throughout the year.

We continue to improve our accommodations, adding writing tables to Ben's and Nellie's and another revolving "lazy susan" to our (large) dining table among other conveniences.

There's also been a significant amount of upgrading of the grounds in the immediate vicinity of HPH. With the establishment of a separate water supply to the garden below the house, the Butterfly Garden planned by Sri Lanka's top butterfly and dragonfly experts (Dr. George and Ms. Nancy van der Poorten) can be expected to exhibit a new surge of growth! Also, the roof of our stand-by-generator room has been completely re-built, reminding us of the fact that, while HPH has a charm of its own because of its vintage, ongoing repairs and renovations come as a part of that privilege!

The Soaking Pool continues to be a magnet to visitors with the developing arch of vegetation over the access path looking more and more attractive as the months go by. We hope to soon have a few more rustic benches installed at the

Lookout Point and the Nutmeg Grove and the Soaking Pool as well. These will lend themselves to use for picnic lunches, or for those simply wanting to "sit and stare!"

Any growth of Guinea Grass on the Boulder Trail continues to be controlled. The trail is becoming as popular as the Soaking Pool as a pleasant short hike, not calling for rock-climbing or mountaineering skills!



Colorful Caladiums in our garden

In closing, a Very Merry Christmas and a Bright, Prosperous and Safe New Year to you and yours!

Warm wishes!  
Arlene & Emil

**For the month of December, each visiting group will continue to receive what has become a trademark of HPH hospitality, the complimentary "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies"**