



Meditation Flat with Natta enjoying the spot

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

– April 2014 –

As March draws to a close, we are beginning to feel like we are some kind of “oasis in reverse” with reports of torrential rain from communities around us but nary a drop at HPH, except for a few “false alarms” providing the portents of tropical downpours! However, the improvements to our water supply are keeping us well supplied with clean potable water for our guests and us. And, thanks to the supplementary supply to the area below the house, the garden looks a wee bit greener than even before the drought commenced!

The final touches to the extension of the “Ela Trail” which we introduced in our March newsletter await the first showers as do those to the path up to Lookout Point.



Natta inspecting the view from the Ela Trail extension

We have another walking trail up and running. It is, perhaps, the pleasantest walking trail in the environs of HPH. Called the “Senevi Paara”, it is named after Senevi who was born at Halgolla and has returned to our employ in his latter years. It begins from just above the “Thambili Hiriya”(block of King coconut trees), goes under several of our giant Durian trees and then climbs gently through arbour-like conditions to the

knoll above Lookout Point. This site has now been christened “Meditation Flat” because it lends itself admirably to such a pursuit, being a place of peace and tranquility as I hope my attempt at landscape photography at the top of this page will attest! We are toying with the idea of building a rustic pergola which could lend itself to being used as a campsite by the more adventurous of visitors! However, any such attempt will only be if such an “addition” does not, in any way detract from the natural beauty of the spot.

Our enthusiasm for Meditation Flat should not detract from our “Two hammocks and a swing” under the “*Karthu Colomban*”(black colomban mango) tree at the bottom of the garden. The hammocks have already received rave reviews [“heavenly”] and provide a delightful facility to read or sleep in under the shade of the mango tree.



Arlene enjoying one of the new hammocks....

You can also “swing away your time” on our rustic garden swing. And while the swing might be reminiscent of something Mr. Rube Goldberg might have designed, it IS

quaint and does, I am assured, add “character” to that corner of our garden!



...and the swing...

When the rains come, we will also be planting several passion fruit vines adjacent to the “swing and hammock tree,” increasing our supply of this delectable fruit.

Mallika has been “going like gangbusters” in the matter of pollinating vanilla flowers in the plantation adjacent to the bottom of our garden. A word of caution in the matter of anticipation of a bumper vanilla crop is indicated here however, because the ultra-dry weather has resulted in premature “bean-shed”. Cross your fingers for us in the hope that we will have a half decent harvest a few months down the road, dear readers!

We’ve made a few little improvements to the Soaking Pool in an effort to raise its water level marginally but the drought conditions prevent us from really ascertaining the success of this effort!

We have also been extending our marketing reach and have recently signed up with some booking and tour companies. More on that in the next newsletter. But in the meantime, check our [Facebook](#) page and “LIKE” it if you do. Bookings are now available through [Airbnb](#) and we will be putting a booking calendar on our website soon so that you can book directly with us. We value you telling your friends about HPH.

As you will appreciate, we have been quite busy (as usual!) the last little while and we know that, if nothing else, all of this will enhance the quality of your next stay at HPH.

Warm wishes!
Arlene & Emil

For the month of April

a pack of Special HPH-grown and -roasted coffee with each booking

In addition each visiting group will receive what has become a trademark of HPH hospitality, the complimentary “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies.”



Photo courtesy of Sharni Jayawardena

Halgolla Plantation Home

- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
- recommended in the [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor. See what our previous [guests](#) have had to say!

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Sri Lanka – rated as a top tourist destination for 2011, 2012 & 2013.

[The Lonely Planet](#)
[Condé Nast Traveller](#)
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For information or to book your accommodation, check our website www.halgollaplantationhome.com or contact Emil van der Poorten: emil@halgollaplantationhome.com or by phone: 94-77-347-0702 or 94-72-284-9770