



**Mr. M.H.A. Haleem, Minister of Posts & Muslim Religious Affairs**  
**at "Pocket Meeting" held to ask for his support for motorable road access for residents**

## Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

– September 2015 –

The Esala Perahera would have “been and gone” by the time you get this Newsletter (the final Day Perahera is on the 29<sup>th</sup>) but an interesting sidelight is that some of our guests who had little choice because of the timing of their visit to Kandy to only view the early and truncated version of this grand, torch-lit parade, came away absolutely thrilled with the experience! They claimed that, not only was it the highlight of their trip to Sri Lanka, they had never in their travels all over the world, experienced the like of that unique torch-lit procession. Another highlight of their trip, as they journeyed down to Yala National Park from Ella was a visit to the Buduruvagala ruins that hark back to the time of **Mahayana** Buddhism in Sri Lanka and has some magnificent statues in a wonderful sylvan setting only a short distance off the main highway. This is certainly a place to put on your itinerary if you are going to be passing through that part of Sri Lanka.

And while journeys such as those down to the Southern Coast of Sri Lanka are not likely to be among the short trips beginning and ending at HPH that we’ll arrange ourselves, those that **are** will probably be prominently featured on our website, [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com) by the time this Newsletter reaches you. If they aren’t, they soon will be and that’s a promise!

Our fruit crops continue and our Parrot Mango trees are festooned with flowers which, we hope, result in a good crop before too long, though we’ve reconciled ourselves to our battles with the Giant Squirrels and Macaque Monkeys never ceasing.

The vegetation around HPH has never been more lush and that can certainly be attributed to a return to the fewer periods of intense drought that we’ve experienced in the last year. Irrespective of which direction the rain comes from, we’ll continue to welcome it, particularly since, during all of this year it hasn’t disrupted the activities that our guests have chosen, whether on site or on day-trips.

The picture that appears at the top of our opening page this month is obviously not the usual. It was taken at our entry gate when a “Pocket meeting” was convened and one of the candidates in the recent General Election (Minister M.H.A. Haleem) was invited to listen to the pleas of residents for motorable road access to their homes, something which was available to them fifty years ago, but, sadly had ceased to exist during a time when they were not among the politically favoured. With Mr. Haleem’s re-election and (we hope!) continuing as a Cabinet Minister our expectations are high that this lifeline will be restored to all the residents of the area! For the author of this Newsletter, it has been quite a while since he engaged in community action of this kind, but he felt right at home doing so!



**Parrot mango flowers**

With all good wishes  
 Arlene & Emil

For each booking in September

The “sampler pack”  
of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee  
and  
the “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies” which has  
become a trademark of HPH hospitality

### Halgolla Plantation Home

- now ranked #8/241 B&Bs in Kandy on Trip Advisor
- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
- recommended in the [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

### Plants of interest at HPH – *Cycas nathorstii* (S. Madu)

The clump of *Cycas*, one of the first trees (?) encountered by those on the usually conducted “walk-about” with yours truly used to be known as *Cycas circinalis* until the botanical name was corrected a while back. The quite-considerable clump at the foot of the retaining wall by our garage originated from a plant dug up from the side of the road between Polonnaruwa and Valaichenai on one of Emil’s regular trips to his A-Frame holiday home on the Eastern Coast in the ‘Sixties of the last century. It is now a quite impressive clump producing tender shoots that can either be curried or prepared so that they are virtually indistinguishable from Asparagus tips and (profuse) fruit, the pulp of which can be made into “pittu” more often made with Semolina, millet (*kurrakkan*) etc. The mature fronds are commonly used for decorations in halls where weddings and such are celebrated. The plant itself is a primitive one, harking back to the time of the dinosaurs, and our specimen is a quite impressive one.



Developing fruits of *Cycas nathorstii*



Our clump of *Cycas nathorstii*

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



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

You can now book directly with us from our website at:  
[www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com). Look for the booking widget:

Check In date:	Nights:	
<input type="text" value="01 Jul 2015"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

Use the widget above\* to check for availability at HPH and to make your booking directly with us. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.

If you don’t see it, try refreshing your browser and make sure that your browser is set to “allow blocked content”. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.

We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [HomeStay](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) as well as by contacting us directly.

Sri Lanka: rated as a top tourist destination by [The Lonely Planet](#); [Condé Nast Traveller](#); [The New York Times](#); and [National Geographic](#).