



**Hump-nosed Lizard (*Lyriocephalus scutatus*) in our "coffee jungle"**

## **Halgolla Plantation Home**

**Accommodation of a different kind**

- July 2016 -

The little reptile whose portrait appears at the top of this newsletter was infinitely more dramatically coloured than the photograph suggests and you can blame the photographer and, perhaps, the 'el cheapo' camera the flash of which washed out the dramatic contrasting green and gold of this lizard!

June has featured rainfall that was typical of traditional "South West monsoon weather" with the added benefit of no afternoon heat thunderstorms or electrical activity in the atmosphere!

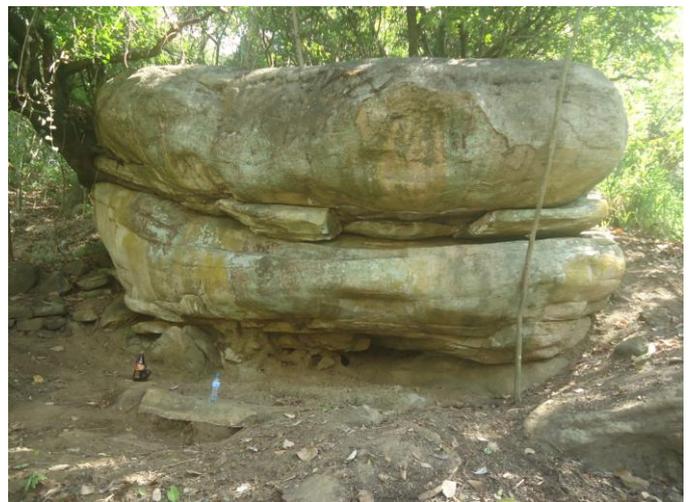
*Kikki* has succeeded in appropriating the rear verandah where our open-hearth is located, *Natta* deciding that she could do without the aggravation of the newcomer who will not desist from continuous efforts to engage the older canine in frivolous activity. Incidentally, *Kikki* got overly enthusiastic/adventurous and fell off the big rock behind our kitchen, a good 6 meters to the road below and survived with no visible signs of damage!

George (Dr. Michael) and Nancy van der Poorten launched their iconic Butterflies of Sri Lanka to a degree of truly exceptional and deserved acceptance and if you are interested in obtaining a copy (if there is one still available) we'd advise you to contact them at [michaelgvdp@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgvdp@gmail.com) or [nmgvdp@aim.com](mailto:nmgvdp@aim.com) soon.

The HPH household has had more than its share of "health issues" recently and the only one who has escaped (up to now!) is Bisomenika. However, we have all recovered, are

in recovery mode or preparing to do something about our particular ailment!

The durian season is upon us and one of the "locals" has leased the trees until all the fruit have been harvested, though "harvested" is hardly the term for gathering the fruit because, traditionally, they are collected off the ground after they fall from the tree (and God help anyone who happens to be in the path of a falling durian!)



**Boulder sheltering Gamini's Bench**

Soon, it will be Dalada Perahera time in Kandy! This is a truly unique and very impressive procession that wends its way through the streets of the Hill Capital, beginning on August 8<sup>th</sup> and running for ten consecutive nights, getting longer and more impressive with each passing night. The illumination for the scores of beautifully caparisoned elephants and the hundreds of drummers, dancers, jugglers,

whip-crackers and other entertainers is provided by *copra*<sup>1</sup>-fuelled torches held aloft by their bearers. This is truly a spectacle beyond compare! We've established contact with an agent, who provides extensive information on the spectacle at <http://www.kandyperaherasesats.com/>. You can either book direct with him or through us, ensuring that, in either event, you give us a lot of lead time!

We are (we hope!) on the cusp of formal approval of small-scale commercial production of our, completely additive-free, jams, jellies and preserves. We will then be able to retail what has been, up to now, available only to our visitors. An interesting project in which attracting discerning consumers and not large sales will be our priority. As I write this, Arlene is in the process of doing a trial-run on making, for the first time, a preserve with the variety of citrus of which a picture appears below!



**Citron (*Citrus medica*)**

From time to time we've appealed to those who've visited HPH but haven't followed up with their comments on TripAdvisor. Please put that on your "to do" list even if it's been a while since you've stayed with us. It's our primary means of advertisement and if you click on [www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit](http://www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit) it's quick and simple!

With all good wishes!  
Arlene & Emil

**For July we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and the "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies," that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!**

<sup>1</sup> *Copra* is the dried kernel of the coconut from which coconut oil is extracted.

## 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 by [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!



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:	Search
<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, refresh 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** and we do **not** accept credit cards. Payment accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any other major currency.

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

Sri Lanka: rated as a top tourist destination by [The Lonely Planet](#); [Condé Nast Traveller](#); [The New York Times](#); [National Geographic](#); and [the \(London\) Times](#). And most recently by [Huffington Post UK](#). In addition, [Fox News](#) follows the lead of The Lonely Planet by recommending Sri Lanka as the #1 place to visit!

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