



First sprigs of new clove crop ready for harvesting

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – ACCOMMODATION OF A DIFFERENT KIND

- December 2016 -

At long last we had the rains we prayed for for so long and so hard! And not a moment too soon! To repeat what we said in last month's HPH Newsletter, we didn't experience the water crises that so many of our countrymen, both city- and country dwellers, experienced thanks to several years (and much money!) spent on augmenting our potable water supply. In fact we just learned that cousin Dr. George (Michael) van der Poorten and his wife Nancy may be facing the prospect of putting in a deep well at a cost of over a million rupees unless help from Mother Nature is forthcoming immediately if not sooner!

One of the bonuses of the weird weather patterns, though, has been an off-season crop of vanilla flowers which we referred to in last month's newsletter and which our newly-trained helpers are pollinating vigorously and, we hope, successfully! Also, we have a clove crop ready for harvest and the nutmegs continue to mature in dribs and drabs, even if

not in the abundance of "regular" seasons!

As I write this, we are exploring the possibilities of hosting foreign volunteers to add another facet to HPH's operation. As one who had first-hand experience collaborating with an organization called Frontiers Foundation which brought volunteers of professional status such as architects into aboriginal settlements in Northern Canada in summer, the concept is not totally alien to me. However, I also recall the challenges of such collaboration, leaving somewhat mixed feelings in their wake. Anyway, let's see what a Sri Lankan edition of that endeavour is going to yield. Incidentally, our recent experiment with local "trainees" has not proved the unmitigated success we'd hoped it would be. One lives and learns.

The changed weather patterns have not only had the vanilla flowering out of season but a few of the Durian trees are loaded with blossoms and we've mentioned some of the other cash crops earlier in this newsletter. As for the mango trees, there is everything from blossoms to small fruit on them and our fruit seasons were once the same as the rest of the northern hemisphere! Oh, well, since you can't do anything about nature, you might as well adapt or grin-and-bear.



Amherstia nobilis, truly the "Pride of Burma"

Another of the bonuses of topsy-turvy weather patterns has been the fragrance of one or several of the blossoming flowers wafting through the house as I write this.

We usually put the little note with which we are ending this newsletter on the covering email when we send out the newsletters. However, this time it's going in the body of the Newsletter:

If receiving this email is, in any way, an imposition, please let us know and we'll take you off the monthly mailing list immediately. If, however, you like what you read in our little blurb about HPH, please feel free to disseminate it as widely as possible because it is our primary means of getting the "HPH message" out!

Christmas is round the corner and, for the first time since we've been back in Galagedera we are not going to have a major "bash" for our staff. Instead, we will simply entertain them to lunch and hand out our little Christmas presents then. In case you are wondering about this break in what has become a tradition at HPH, it is because the two of us have had major health challenges in the past year and are only now coming up for air! We hope that by the time X'mas 2017 rolls in we'll be ready to celebrate in the manner we've been used to!

With our very best wishes for the holiday season!

Arlene & Emil

For December, as in month's past, we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and a "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies" that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!

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. 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"/>
<p>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.</p>		

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 is accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any other major currency at the exchange rate prevailing at the time.

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



Karagahagedera Ambalama – a morning's trip away from HPH

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