



Looking east from Nelli-gala Saama Chaitiya (with our little Mitsubishi mini van in the middle ground!)

## HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – ONE OF A KIND!

- February 2017 -

Apologizing for sending out this monthly bulletin later than we should have become more the rule than the exception! However, we've been busy and the disruption of our lives caused by "health issues" seems to have caught up with us and we seem to be playing "catch up" more often than we did in the past!

And now for another apology: the picture at the top of this page does not do anything resembling justice to the truly magnificent, 360 degree, view from the top of the enormous round granite boulder on top of which is Nelligala Saama Chaitiya. This landmark is situated in proximity to the famous Ridi Vihare and the 65-foot tall granite Samadhi Buddha statue – the largest in the world. Light conditions for photography were at their worst – a tropical afternoon haze – resulting in our presenting only a view to the east of this landmark. We are now in the process of putting together a "package" that will enable a couple of guests at a time to leave here very early in the morning, pick up a knowledgeable guide from the area to be visited, get to *Nelligala* as early as possible in the morning, take in the magnificent view and then visit the Moneragala *Samadhi* Buddha, truly without equal, and return to HPH via *Ridi* (Silver) Vihare which is famed as providing the means by which King Dutugemunu, in his final years, completed the Ruvanveliseya, Sri Lanka's largest *dagoba* in the capital of the country in pre-Christian times. Anyone embarking on this journey will get back to HPH in time for lunch. The entire journey will be in a vehicle that suits the needs of such a journey – a wide-bodied three-wheeler. Details will appear on our

website - [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com) – once we have put the pieces together!

As I write this, Bisomenika tells me that there are a few more sprigs of vanilla flowers ready to open, something out of the ordinary considering what time of year it is. However, they will, as usual, be hand-pollinated, successfully we hope, and prove yet another "value-addition" to the operation of Halgolla Plantation Home,

<b>A HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME PRODUCT</b>		
(Name of product – Sinhala)		
(Name of Product – English)		
<p><b>Manufacture d: Best before: Batch No.: Net.Weight: gms Price:</b></p>		<p><b>(name of fruit) pulp, sugar and natural spices only. No added preservatives, or artificial colouring</b></p> <p><b>Store at room temperature or refrigerate</b></p>
<p>Halgolla Plantation Home Galagedera 20100 Sri Lanka E-mail: <a href="mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com">emil@halgollaplantationhome.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com">www.halgollaplantationhome.com</a></p>		

joining the other jams, jellies, preserves and spices we are making available for commercial distribution. Apropos of our seeking a “value-added” component to the operation of HPH, we would welcome inquiries from readers of this little newsletter (and their friends) in order to assess the possibility of direct sales of small quantities of packaged product.

While we had a few light showers as January drew to a close, we seem to be facing a drought of historic proportions. So far, our primary supply line has coped with our demand for good potable water but that is not something we can realistically expect to continue for much longer. That said, our secondary supply which we installed (under consistent criticism by many that we were spending money unnecessarily!) has not been used except at the lower level around the house, mainly for keeping Arlene’s potted garden plants alive. In fact, they seem to be doing well enough without precipitation from above! We can draw on this water supply if need be for the whole house, except for the gravitational pressure not being strong enough for our bathroom upstairs despite it being of the same quality as our regular supply.

For those who haven’t been to HPH recently here is an update on the relationship between our old faithful *Natta* and the “new girl on the block,” *Kikki*. It’s fascinating to watch the back-and-forth in authority between the two canines, one a mature “neutered” female and the younger one of the same gender. *Natta* seems to have accepted the reality of the newcomer on our premises but tries to maintain the distance (traditional among humans) between the two generations that they represent! Incidentally, within a short time of supposedly having had a hysterectomy (got a vet.’s receipt in proof thereof!), *Kikki* produced two pups neither of whom survived more than a few days.

**For February, 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!**

- 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!

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

If you don’t see it, refresh your browser and make sure that your browser is set to “allow blocked content”.

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

**For regular updates of what is happening at Halgolla Plantation Home, please like us on [Facebook](#).**



**Carved granite steps with polished surfaces leading up to the 65-foot high Samadhi Buddha statue at Moneragala**