



The HPH crew, inclusive of Pathmalatha (now retired), back row far right; children (3) and grand-children (3) of our crew

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME
 - ***THE* UNIQUE SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE -**
JANUARY 2018

No one seemed to catch the big “boo-boo” in the opening paragraph of our last Newsletter: it read “NOVEMBER 2017,” when it should have been “DECEMBER 2017!”

That said, let us wish everyone reading this little Newsletter all the very best in 2018!



One of the many varieties of mushroom that explode out of the ground after rainy weather!

Some of the pics. In this Newsletter go back a-ways and our excuse is that the beginning a new year is the time to

get *schmaltzy* and sentimental! We do hope you’ll forgive our indulgence just this once!

We had a traditional staff get-together in mid-December and the lunch and festivities, inclusive of gifts from under the tree appeared to go over as well if not better than in years’ past. There was no shortage of children and this, probably, accounts for the success of the event because if the season is meant for anyone it is for the little ones.

Our spice dryer is complete and operative, our *Aeth Amuna* (Elephant dam) seems to have all its leaks finally sealed and our water supply lines from both our

(three-generations-old) reservoir as well as the more recent augmentations appear to be as monkey- and wild pig-proof as is possible. This is certainly a great note on which to usher in 2018 but we are keeping our fingers crossed nevertheless!

This might be as good a time as any

For January 2018, as in months’ past, we’ll continue our “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
- recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

to recognize the growth of Selvarajah’s (“Short’s”) multiplicity of skills learned “on the job” as it were since HPH began operations. He is more than the traditional “chief cook and bottle-washer,” taking on tasks in the area of carpentry, bricklaying and building and the other odds and ends required of him in a diversified operation such as HPH is. He has the ability to work effectively with the rest of the HPH crew in sometimes complex and difficult circumstances. Once he deals with some personal issues of significance he, his wife and three children will enjoy a better quality of life.



The visitor from Alaska in this old pic., will recognize herself when she receives this newsletter!



Male Purple Sunbird sitting on eggs with the washing hanging right by the nest!

By this text is a picture of a Purple Sunbird's nest with the male taking his turn sitting on a clutch of eggs (in the night). The location of the nest is an attempt by the by these beautiful little birds to get away from other avian predators. It's on the clothes line that runs the length of the corridor serving Senevi's room and the rooms that Suresh, Kirthika and their one-year old occupy. In

fact, we had to gently re-locate the clothes line so that the

windows that open on to the corridor didn't hit it and hurt the birds and their nest! This is not the first instance of birds locating their nests right under our noses, so to speak, in order to avoid the unfriendly attentions of other avian predators, an indication of changing times. The "Up" and "Down" sides of this story are for you, dear reader, to choose!

The stained glass window that appears beside this text

is, for those unfamiliar with HPH, the product of the van der Poorten studio in Brussels in the 19th century.

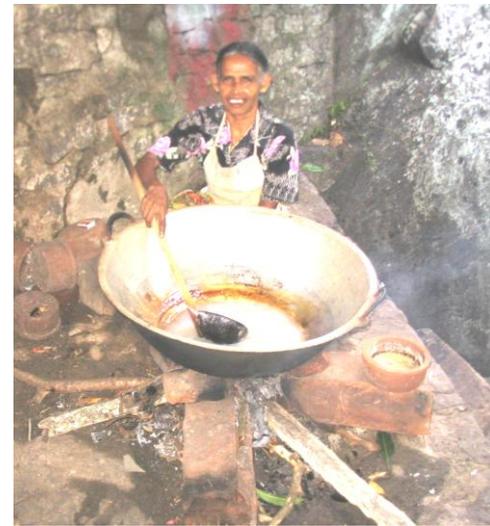
A new innovation in the mail-out with our monthly Newsletter is a single sheet with information about places and events of interest, with dates, where appropriate. The idea is that such a summary would help in



A familiar sight from the HPH dining table

the planning of a trip to Sri Lanka, providing "lead time" in the matter of getting to see or do things of particular interest to the visitor. Your suggestions with regard to this one-sheeter will be most welcome! We have had a recent suggestion that we should offer major discounts at HPH on any bookings received for

the period January 1st to February 28th and **we are making that offer right here and right now!** So take advantage of it! Let us know when you want to book in and we'll tell you what your **surprise** discount is!



Someone very dear to all of us: Pathmalatha at the palm treacle pan when she was a part of our "scenery."

In the hope that 2018 will be a year of peace, tranquillity and achievement for you and yours, Arlene & Emil



Statue at Padeniya Temple; a morning's outing from HPH

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