



A selection of HPH fruit in April 2018¹

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

Just when we were contemplating “evacuation mode” as our water supply reached crisis point, we had some decent showers which were preceded by several afternoons of a great deal of thunder and lightning and a few scattered drops of water! Given the crisis we had only narrowly averted, one should not IN ANY WAY be critical of the quantity and quality of the precipitation! We can only hope that several of the large trees around, none of which was ever known to have succumbed to drought recover from their current woebegone condition and we will have, at least, enough precipitation to save us from the direst of predictions. Keep your fingers crossed for us dear reader! The “upside” of this scenario has been the bountiful

For May, as in past months, we’ll continue our “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies,” which appears to delight our guests as they take their leave of us!

Some Recognition of HPH

- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka
- recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#)



New vanilla beans getting closer to harvest!

fruit crops we’ve had. The blossoming of our vanilla vines continues apace with a huge increase in the number of flowers successfully pollinated, if the number of beans

appearing is anything to go by.

We celebrated Sinhala & Hindu New Year with the traditional ritual of taking turns in lighting the wicks of the (coconut) oil lamp and partaking of the morning meal of milk rice, *katta sambol*, and *jaggery* (toddy palm sugar), with everyone expressing the New Year wish for a stable year everywhere in the world!

Suresh (and his family) are



Lighting the traditional (coconut) oil lamp for Sinhala & Hindu New Year



Ashwin separating mace from nutmegs!

back in residence after the little "adventure" he had led to a month's sojourn in the Kandy Teaching Hospital! Ashwin has resumed his reign as spoiled child with everyone



Lovi-lovi

in and around HPH thanks to his comedic talents and precociousness!

Our Lovi-lovi tree has produced a very large crop and Arlene and her helpers are in the process of turning this very acid fruit into a delectable jam. She is not likely to make a fruit wine because of the devastating outcome of one such exercise a while back which I have recounted to the great amusement of guests, though A did not share in the merriment!

Kiki, totally unlike her late-lamented predecessor as house-dog at HPH, *Natta*, persists in wallowing in any available moist ground, irrespective of its content, returning to the house caked in mud of varying qualities and consistencies. It seems that the only way that problem might be solved is by keeping her tethered on the premises whenever anyone leaves to work in the field!

Our nutmeg crop continues, though its bounty is not likely to replace what we lost in the spice-dryer fire. That said, we **are** thankful enough for the small mercies that we garner whenever

we can protect the crop from monkey- and giant squirrel-depredations.



Nutmeg is the only plant known to produce TWO spices - nutmeg and mace

With all good wishes,
Arlene & Emil



Samadhi Buddha and Paintings at Bujaslena Raja Maha Viharaya (across the Weuda valley from HPH)

REMEMBER, WE CAN BE REACHED AT +94 (0) 77 347 0702 and +94 (0) 72 284 9770.

OUR WEBSITE IS www.halgollaplantationhome.com and our email is emil@halgollaplantationhome.com

ⁱ Okari Nuts, Mangoes, Star Fruit, Sapodilla, Passion Fruit, Guava, Plant



We've decided to leave this image on all future Newsletters because it is so much a "Trademark" of HPH