

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



The HPH water heater from Micklefield, probably 19th century

As promised, we are continuing a series on pieces of HPH that have an unique history, though this month's feature has nothing like the visual appeal of its immediate predecessor, the mid-nineteenth century stained-glass window out of the van der Poorten studios in Brussels.

The picture appearing in the top left hand corner of this opening page is of

had deteriorated beyond repair by the time of his return from Canada in 2006.

On a note totally unrelated to our usual, we are taking the liberty of providing a link to an expose of one of those multi-million dollar organizations preying on small home-based-operations such as ours. Click on <https://vimeo.com/288285200>, if you are interested.

In the matter of saving our vanilla vines from porcine depredations, we are exploring the use of electric fencing as it is used in the major dairying and sheep-rearing countries to control the grazing habits of the stock. No reason why that method can't be applied to meet our needs, though when Emil ran

our wood-burning water heater which provides enough hot water for the ablutions of our guests and for the dish-washing generated by the dining table and kitchen. This particular piece of equipment was first set up at a hunting lodge in the hill country of Sri Lanka, at Gurutalawa, where pioneer

Britishers, homesick for the practices of Blighty, would gather periodically to hunt the local equivalent of the foxes of their home turf: jackals! The chase was, apparently followed by alcohol-fuelled carousing and a hot bath to wash away the dust (and



Heliconia on the driveway into HPH

the sins committed earlier in the day!) This water heater harks back to those days and, by a devious route, too complicated to relate in this brief piece, landed at HPH where it took the place of an identical piece of equipment that Emil's parents used for many years and which

For October, 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](#)

more than 300 sheep inclusive of Finnish Landrace (as they were then known), before he left for



Devil's trumpet (Datura metel) on the Boulder Path

Canada in 1973, he had no need of such fencing. To add to our predator

woes, we had hordes of giant fruit bats descend on our crop of flacourtia (*Uguressa*) this year and, in the space of a couple of nights, divest the trees of all the fruit they bore! It used to be said, "Another day, another dollar." Now we'll have to add the word "less" at the end of the saying!

A publication, headed by Rosemary Neave of New Zealand and devoted primarily to women travellers has provided very positive exposure to HPH, thanks to one of the female guests at HPH having extolled the virtues of what we provide here. In turn, we would be



The pond outside our living room window

most appreciative if any female readers in particular, send in their candid opinions of the hospitality they received at HPH to

Rosemary Neave at [rosemary@womentravel.info](mailto:rosemary@womentravel.info)

One of the projects we've been (sporadically) engaged in was getting the fish and water-lily pond outside the living room window restored to Emil's pre-1973 departure standard. This is now showing signs of success as the photo here should attest, with the goldfish and carp swimming around the, still immature, potted water lily plants!



Lovi-lovi (*Flacourtia inermis*)

The picture on the left side of this page shows, in its fresh form, one of the most acid of our

garden fruits which, however, lends itself to the production of superb jam, jelly and even fruit wine. One of those strange quirks of nature! As this newsletter is being completed on the last day of September we've got to report one of the most torrential of downpours in living memory on the 29<sup>th</sup> when we had to mop our bedroom floor to remove the water that had flooded in and, this morning, the 30<sup>th</sup>, take an emergency crew down our approach road to repair the damage caused by overflowing roadside drains, as shown on the top right hand corner of this page. Never a dull moment in the tropics!



**With all good wishes,  
Arlene & Emil**



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