



Pride of Burma (*Amherstia nobilis*)

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME

- THE **UNIQUE** SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE - APRIL 2020

As if it wasn't enough that we were beset with the worst drought in living memory and had to husband our drinking water supply while running fans in any occupied room 24/7 to combat the unprecedented heat, we had the covid crisis descend upon us.

It certainly was cold comfort that we were but the local victims of an international crisis of unimaginable proportions!

International travel and tourism was "kaput" for the foreseeable future, with an opportunity for reflection on what we seek to do at HPH that we could well have done without!

That said, we had confirmation, if confirmation was needed, of the fact that what we have always done at HPH has been far more than simply provide good food and accommodation for tourists.

Ours has been a social enterprise that has sought to engage in environmentally acceptable practices while providing unique skills, to those – primarily women - who were significantly economically and educationally disadvantaged

and subsisted in "squatter colonies" in our neighbourhood.

The much abused term "socially responsible enterprise" could well be applied to our efforts over the last dozen years, not to mention the

pioneering efforts with that most exotic of crops – vanilla. The future of HPH as a guest destination in the years ahead obviously lies in our getting the message across to potential visitors of what we do, what we are and what we offer.

Unfortunately, we have always been constrained by our financial limitations in the matter of advertising and that situation has, obviously, got worse.

The vanilla has survived our extreme weather and Rajamani,

with her daughters for company, is performing the Herculean task of hand-pollinating each flower.

Arlene's daughter, Druvinka, is back in Manali, in the Himalayan foothills, isolated from the rest of human habitation below her abode by better than a mile of footpath. She got away from a brief sojourn in Sri Lanka just before the Covid restrictions were imposed after one of the

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!

Acknowledgements of HPH's Excellence

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

infrequent exhibitions she holds at Colombo's Barefoot Gallery.

More than ever, we depend on readers of our Monthly HPH Newsletter to get the word out who we are and what we seek to achieve with an enterprise that seeks to put into practice the best elements of a social enterprise.

We have had the participation of many of you in this endeavour in the past and we hope that we will have even more of you giving us this invaluable assistance in the days ahead.

All jokes apart, we might even launch an appeal for bookings at HPH in the times ahead to show that we are not going to roll over and play dead at this most perilous of times!

AS ALWAYS, WE'D BE MORE THAN PLEASED FOR FEEDBACK ON WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

With all good wishes,
Arlene & Emil



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