



An old picture of a HPH lunch. Time passes but the quality of our cuisine remains unchanged!

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME
- THE *UNIQUE* SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE -
APRIL 2019

The “big news” for last month was the formal launch of our updated and revamped website thanks to that master of that skill, Mr. Suresh Perera. Yours truly nearly botched the whole business by sticking in an incomplete website address in an email I sent out! For those who survived that calamity, the correct web address is <https://www.halgollaplantationhome.com> ! If you haven’t already, check it out.

that falls on to the wheel tracks from the towering clumps that flank the road up to HPH. A theory, but the only one that makes practical sense given the circumstances! April is **the** celebratory month insofar as non-religious holidays in Sri Lanka are concerned and both Hindu and Sinhala New Year fall on the 13th and 14th of the month, though the general practice is to take several additional days off and make family visits etc. at this time of the



In case it isn't obvious enough, it's our "birthday girl" with some immediate family and our trusty helpers on her 81st!

We had, I was informed but did not witness (again!), a peacock in full breeding plumage in the front yard of HPH. Given that peafowl prefer open grassland to terrain with secondary-growth such as ours, how these birds arrived at our doorstep has been a bit of a mystery. One theory is that, from the relative flat at the bottom of our hill, the peafowl have followed the trail of Guinea “A” grass seed

For April, 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 from Trip Advisor

year! For us, it will be a time of, at least, partial hibernation, greeting our friends and co-workers who will arrive loaded with traditional goodies such as *Kevun* (oil cakes) and *Kokis* which owes its beginnings to the Portuguese control of our country in the 16th Century.



Two van der Poortens - Vivimarie (the good-looking one!) with her father's first cousin!



Heliconia flowers from our garden

April 1st is NOT going to be observed in traditional fashion at HPH because no one on the premises believes that they are less than geniuses. Oh, well!



**Arlene's grandson,
Drona, at Aeth
Amuna**

Our unprecedented spell of hot, dry weather continues and there is nothing we can do about that! However, the efforts made over the last dozen years to husband what our little springs here and there produce have

proved a god-send, every little conservation project enthusiastically pursued by "Short" Selvarajah, Senevi, Bisu (our chief vanilla pollinator) and everyone else involved with HPH who see this as a common task. An interesting outcome of this state of affairs is the fact that, at peak periods of drought, we've permitted the biggest thieves and reprobates in our neighbourhood to enter our land because to deny **anyone** water would be unheard of in any culture. However, we do not expect miraculous

changes of behaviour once climatic circumstances permit them to return to such as making *Kasippu* (illicit distillate)! Bisu continues the vanilla flower (hand-) pollination and

Sanjeeva is proving adept at a task of which he has had no previous experience!

Long-overdue structural repairs to the roof of the balcony of the master- (is that politically-acceptable terminology nowadays?!) bedroom is on the cards but we'll have to re-examine our finances before we embark on that adventure.

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



**Organic foliar spray
being applied to vanilla
vines**



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