

TEAM GO VEG!



Triathletes L to R: Narottama dasa, Phalguna Krishna dasa and Sridhama dasa often win local events.

Says Narottama dasa, "Team Go Veg has created quite a buzz about vegetarianism in endurance athletics".



EDUCATION MELA

by Ananda-Maya devi dasi

The first Australasian Ed Mela took place at the New Govardhana Farm from 4 to 6 July 2012. It was organised by Prana dasa, the Principal of the Gurukula at New Varshan near Auckland, New Zealand, Vinod Bihari dasa, Principal of New Govardhana Gurukula and Damodara Pandit dasa, the Govardhana College Director. It was entitled "Engaging Learners through Prabhupada's Vision: Curriculum, Classroom, Relationships."

Fifteen devotees from Australia and New Zealand involved in education participated in the conference dealing with Krishna conscious teaching and learning practices.

After a brief introduction by Vinod Bihari, interesting papers were presented by teachers currently working in Gurukulas and state schools.

Prana presented Srila Prabhupada's Vision on Gurukula education. Krsnananda dasa, the Acting Principal at New Varshan Gurukula, delivered a paper on Restorative Practices in the School. Vimala devi dasi and Jaya Sila dasa, a couple from Auckland, presented a paper on the Nurtured Heart Approach. Aditya dasi, a Primary School Reading Recovery teacher from Melbourne, presented a paper on Inquiry Learning. Damodara Pandit talked about Educational Contestability. Premavati devi dasi, a K to 2 teacher at the New Govardhana Gurukula, gave an inspiring account of the integration of Krishna Consciousness in the Curriculum.

The conference included kirtans, role plays and ice breakers, such as Mandakini devi dasi's new "Ed Mela Rap". There were sharing experiences, realisations, a question and answer session with Bhakti Vidya Purna Swami and tasty prasadam.

Finally, Prana stated that efforts would be made to hold the Ed Mela every two years as it had been such a success. He also suggested that teachers from Indonesia would be invited.



Prana dasa

September 2012



THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

"Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees."

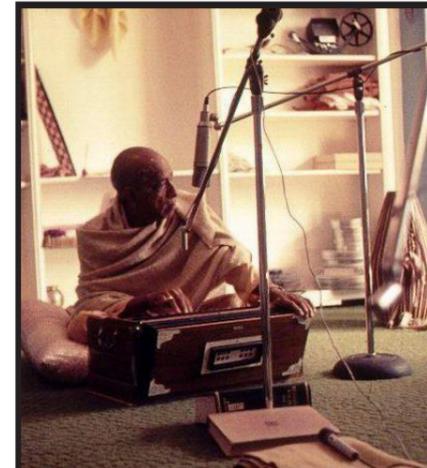
NEWSLETTER

of New Govardhana Community



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

krishnafarm.com



ISKCON Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Prabhupada uvaca ...

Now there is a very nice song. I shall sing. This is a Rupa Gosvami's song.

radhe jaya jaya madhava-dayite
gokula-taruni-mandala-mahite
damodara-rati-varadhana-vese
hari-niskuta-vrnda-vipinise
vrsabhanu-dadhi-nava-sasi-lekhe
lalita-sakhi guna-ramita-visakhe
karunam kuru mayi karuna-bharite
sanaka-sanatana-varnita-carite
radhe jaya jaya madhava-dayite

This song was sung by Rupa Gosvami. He is the real person, actual person, to understand Radha and Krishna. So he says, "All glories to Radharani. Oh, this is not ordinary girl." So the lesson is that we should not treat Radharani as ordinary girl, or Krishna as ordinary man. They are the Supreme Absolute Truth. But in the Absolute Truth, there is the pleasure potency, and that is exhibited in the dealings of Radha and Krishna. And Radha's expansion all the *gopis*, and Krishna is the Supreme Lord. Thank you very much. Chant Hare Krishna.

Excerpt from Sri Radhastami lecture Montreal, August 30, 1968

SRI *Radhastami*

SUN
23 SEPT
FAST TILL NOON

SPECIAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM - STARTS AT MIDDAY

7:30 am	Greeting the Deities	3:00 am	Drama
8:15 am	Srimad Bhagavatam Class	3:25 am	Dance Performance
12:00 pm	Arati & Kirtana	3:45 pm	Puspanjali
12:45 pm	Class	4:00 pm	Arati & Kirtana
1:30 pm	Abhishek	4:30 pm	Feast
2:30 pm	Kirtana		

For further information, sponsorships etc. please contact Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 190 313
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA

DONT FORGET TO REGISTER ...

Holy Name Retreat

Featuring HH Sacinandana Swami and HG Madhava Prabhu
4 - 7 October 2012
www.holynameretreat.com

GET READY

for

THE HOLY NAME RETREAT

- Everyone must register
- Tell all your friends
- Host visitors in your

A BATTLEFIELD FOR SATYA

By Mandakini devi dasi



Stalwart New Govardhana *pujari*, Satya dasi, was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (Cancer of the blood) at the end of June and decided to begin a four month course of chemotherapy treatment straight away. She succumbed to adverse reactions and was admitted to hospital, where the chemotherapy was temporarily halted.

Describing her body as akin to 'The Battlefield of Kurukshetra', Satya is remaining optimistic in her ordeal. She is looking forward to recovering her health in order to resume her *pujari* service

to Their Lordships Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. Her other devotional commitments include a writing project on the early days of Krishna Consciousness in Australia and a synopsis on her son, Candrasekhara dasa, who is a GBC member for China.

Says Satya, "During any procedure I undergo at the hospital, I simply try to perform *manasa seva* to Gaura Nitai. I absorb my mind in arranging Their turbans and offering orchids at Their feet. I experience a lot of pain and realize I could leave this body at any moment, but Krishna will sort it out. He is my Lord unconditionally".

BOOK DISTRIBUTION



"Sure beats drinking beer inside this pub here", says a happy recipient.

By Rupa Raghunatha dasa

One time I was in the process of setting up a book table in downtown Sydney. As I was bringing more books from the van, a young man was scrutinising the display. He was travelling from New Caledonia and before I had even finished setting up, he had already chosen and was ready to purchase \$ 100 worth of books.

These books are non-different to Krishna Himself and as soon as we make the endeavour to distribute them, they find their targets. Our lives are gradually being taken away from us. We cannot buy back even one moment.

Srimad Bhagavatam explains, "Both the rising and setting of the sun decreases the life span of everyone, except for one who utilizes his time to glorify the all good Personality of Godhead".

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch should contain 200 words or less and can be supplied in either MS Word format or typed directly into the body of an email. Photos must be submitted in JPG format. All articles and photos must be sent to newgovconch@gmail.com by the 21st of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Mandakini devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Govinda Johnson, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact www.theconchnewsletter.org

POWERFUL PRASADAM

By Mandakini devi dasi

Mahananda devi dasi received both 1st and 2nd initiation in Sri Dham Mayapur when she was 12 years old. Trained in the art of Vedic cooking by Didima in Mayapur, she was privileged to cook for Sri Sri Radha Madhava.



Mahananda devi dasi

Her strong desire to distribute prasadam was recently realized when she opened her restaurant Giri Kana Cafe in Southport. Says Mahananda, "I take my Giriraja deity to the restaurant every day and all the preparations are offered to Him".

Recounting an incident that occurred one morning, Mahananda tells of a local businessman, Ali, who came in and was visibly disappointed to realize that there were no meat dishes on the menu. "Please make me a dish that's as close to a ham and cheese toastie as possible", he said. Mahananda offered him some freshly prepared scrambled tofu, which he quickly declined. A few days later he came in again complaining that his friend had been served the most delicious scrambled eggs at this very same establishment. On hearing it was tofu, he was flabbergasted and could not believe it. "Just try it", Mahananda urged. After some coaxing, Ali sampled the prasadam, smacked his lips and loudly declared, "Oh my God, just like eggs!"

EVERY TOWN, VILLAGE AND MINING CAMP

by Mandakini devi dasi



Urvasi devi dasi

Working as a driver for a Mount Isa mining company, Pandu Putra dasa is required to spend much of his time away from his family and far from the association of devotees of Lord Krishna.

At first, our irrepressible *sankirtan* man found the separation quite a challenge, but now admits to feeling well placed by Krishna. He is relishing the unique opportunity to spread the glories of the holy name in such a remote region.

Together with a life-sized *murti* of Srila Prabhupada, Pandu prabhu worships the following deities in Mount Isa regularly every

day, Radha Madhava, Nitai Gaura Hari, Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra, Lord Nrishimadeva and Laddhu Krishna.

A couple of times a week, after donning *vaisnava* dress and *tilak*, he sets up a book table and performs *harinam* in the main shopping area.

Says Pandu, "One time, not so long ago, I decided to take Srila Prabhupada out on to the streets. People were captivated. The aboriginal people were especially respectful and even offered *laxmi* at Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet".

Recently Yadunatha dasa from Brisbane joined the Mount Isa workforce and now the two devotees are combining their efforts to hold a weekly



Pandu Putra dasa

Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Hari now residing in Mount Isa

Sunday feast programme. Pandu is planning to construct a Rathayatra which can be dismantled and taken to Darwin and many of the outback towns.

SRI RADHASTAMI

by Govinda Johnson



Dhriti Gopi devi dasi

Normally Radhastami falls just 15 days after Janmastami. This year, however, is a Vedic leap year and thus we will celebrate it 45 days after Sri Krishna's appearance. The Vedic leap year occurs once every 3 years.

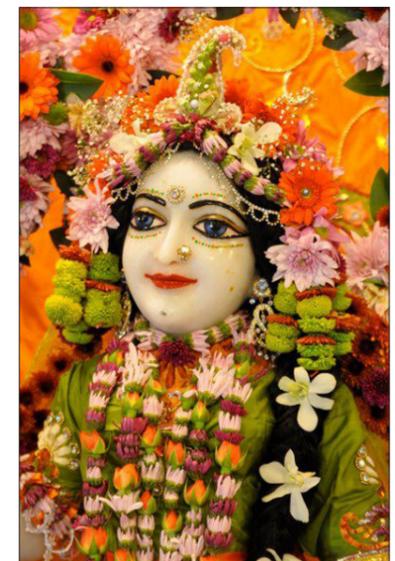
As with other auspicious occasions in the Vedic calendar, such as *kartika* and *caturmasya*, the rewards for both piety and spirituality are enhanced. Devotees who take part in the happy preparations for this forthcoming celebration will not be overlooked by Krishna – 'The Dispenser of Delights'.

Regarding these preparations, one of the more intriguing items we boast of is Radharani's flower dress. Beginning at 3.00 am and finishing at 6.00 pm, Dhriti devi dasi and other ladies in the community carefully craft the flower outfits along with the jewellery for Radha and Krishna.

They use a selection of flowers including chrysanthemums, roses, jonquils, gerberas and asters.

On Radhastami 18 September 1969, Srila Prabhupada said in London, "When you want *ananda*, pleasure, you cannot have it alone. Alone you cannot enjoy".

Therefore, let us all skilfully combine our efforts to make Radhastami more magnificent than ever.



HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am
Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information **Parama Karuna dasa 0439 280 362**

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm
Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise **bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au**

Sunday Mornings
Northern NSW & Gold Coast **www.folkkrishna.com/program.htm**
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

“There is a sacred room inside our heart and although we are always walking in front of it, it is not so easy to enter it. To enter it, one needs a bridge. By connecting to Krishna as the *paramatma* in the heart, the bridge will be established. Krishna can take you into this sacred space.”
- HH Sacinandana Swami



“Banana Fest: Krishnas Still Singing”.
At Murwillumbah’s annual parade, Hare Krishna members participate.

Vladimir Vodopyanov

MUKUNDA GOSWAMI WINS AWARD

Mukunda Goswami’s *Miracle on Second Avenue* has won a prestigious book award in the United States. The National Indie Excellence Book Awards are given out in many categories to the best books by independent publishing houses.

This year Mukunda Goswami’s book about the early days of the Hare Krishna Movement and its founder A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, published by Torchlight, was judged to be the best book in the biography/general category.

The year is 1965. An elderly Indian swami arrives in New York City determined to start a worldwide spiritual movement. After a harrowing sea journey on a freighter, where he suffers two heart attacks, his only possessions are a few cases of books and eight dollars, he meets a few people willing to help him. From a small storefront on Second Avenue in New York’s East Village, a worldwide spiritual movement miraculously takes form. (Extract)

This book is available from the shop at New Govardhana.

SNAPSHOTS BY URVASI DEVI DAS



Chota Krishna Balarama enjoy Their Grand Abhisheka on Balarama Purnima



The new set which was offered on Janmastami



Kalindi Cozzi and Lalita Benson help prepare the Janmastami fruit offering



Balarama Purnima Festival



ISKCON 2nd generation at Janmastami



The fruit offering on Janmastami



Asesa Sadhini devi dasi created a ghee lamp for offering on Janmastami



Parama Karuna Moya dasa and Jai Saci dasa make garlands for Vyasa Puja



Srila Prabhupada’s Vyasa Puja Pushpanjali



Kalindi, Lalita, Manu and Dhruva recently spent 4 hours collecting weeds from the cow paddocks



For all Bruce the Goose fans: nowadays he can be seen following Locana the bullock everywhere



The recent stone-skipping contest was a fun day out for young and old

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Sri Radhastami, 23 September 2012 (starts at noon)

Vamanadeva Appearance Day, 27 September 2012

The Supreme Lord appeared as the dwarf incarnation - Lord Sri Vamanadev. Lord Vamanadev begged 3 steps of land from Maharaj Bali. Maharaj Bali surrendered everything to Lord teaching us full surrender.

Srila Jiva Goswami Appearance Day, 27 September 2012

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura Appearance Day, 28 September 2012

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (1838-1914) is a prominent preceptor acharya in our succession of spiritual masters and disciples coming from Lord Krishna. He was a pioneering spiritual leader, a householder, a magistrate working in colonial India under the British rule, a prolific preacher, writer and poet.

Program begins at 10.00 am

Pushpanjali 12.00 Noon

Feast 1.00 pm

ISKCON Communication Seminar, Saturday 29 September 2012

New Govardhana Temple from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm

Bhakta dasa, Communications and Public Relations Director for ISKCON Australia, will be holding a seminar for devotees who are interested to learn and get involved.

"I hope to meet with and encourage devotees wanting to learn and assist with various areas of communication while I stay at your temple."

Topics covered in this FREE 3 hour seminar :

Internal and External Communications, Chaplaincy, Interfaith and The Hindu Community.

Lunch will be served.



Vamanadeva



Bhakta dasa

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

12 We

Fasting for Parama Ekadasi

13 Th

Dvadasi Break fast 5.48 am - 9.45 am

Community Meeting at Temple Shop

17 Mo

Second month of Caturmasya continues

20 Th

Srimati Sita Thakurani (Sri Advaita's consort) — Appearance

21 Fr

Lalita sasti

23 Su

Radhastami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani

26 We

Fasting for Parsva Ekadasi (Fast today for Vamanadeva)

27 Th

Dvadasi Break fast 5.31 am - 9.36 am

Sri Vamana Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva (Fasting is done yesterday)

Srila Jiva Goswami — Appearance

28 Fr

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura — Appearance

29 Sa

Ananta Caturdasi Vrata

Srila Haridasa Thakura — Disappearance

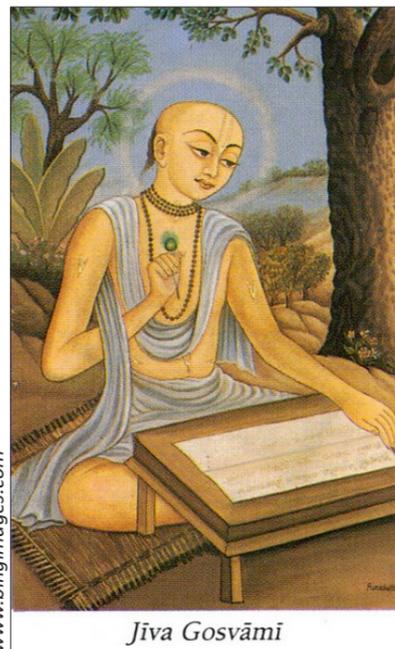
Last day of the second Chaturmasya month

30 Su

Sri Visvarupa Mahotsava

Acceptance of sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada

Third month of Caturmasya begins (milk fast for one month)



Jiva Gosvami

LEAP OF FAITH - SHAKE OF HAND



Vladimir Vodopyanov

Attendees L to R: Madhurya Lila devi dasi, Srimati devi dasi, Mr Paul Fua (Principal Tweed Valley Adventist College), Madhavendra Durr, Councilor Joan van Lieshout, Uttama Sloka dasa, Bhakta dasa, HH Mukunda Goswami, Damodara Pandit dasa, Victoria Zinchenko, Mike Firestone, Mahateja devi dasi.

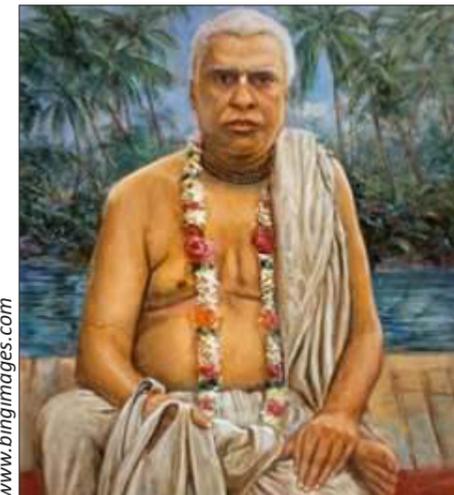
by Damodara Pandit dasa

HH Mukunda Goswami, Uttama Sloka dasa (from Russia) and Bhakta dasa (from Melbourne) attended what is believed to be the first Interfaith event to be held in Murwillumbah. The attendees met at the Red Cross Hall in Knox Park, Murwillumbah, on the evening of 10 August 2012. The group which consisted of Tweed Valley residents from multiple religions and a Tweed Council representative discussed how to provide a spiritual support network for at-risk youths in the Tweed Valley.



SRILA BHAKTIVINODA THAKURA

Compiled by Manu dasa <http://www.krishna.com/life-srila-bhaktivinoda-thakur>



www.bingimages.com

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (1838-1914) is a prominent preceptor acharya in our succession of spiritual masters and disciples coming from Lord Krishna. He was a pioneering spiritual leader, a householder, a magistrate working in colonial India under the British rule, a prolific preacher, writer and poet. He wrote volumes of books reintroducing the pure teachings of Lord Chaitanya at a time when those teachings had practically become lost.

He composed hundreds of devotional songs glorifying Krishna to uplift the consciousness of the suffering people of this world. He corresponded with philosophers, theologians, leaders, scholars, and professors of his time and sent books, including The Life and Precepts of Lord Chaitanya, to university libraries in foreign countries, planting the seeds for a worldwide movement of Krishna consciousness. Bhaktivinoda Thakura discovered and excavated the birthplace of Lord Chaitanya.

Along with his devoted wife, Bhagavati Devi, he raised ten children, including the illustrious Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura, who would become a great spiritual leader in his own time and the spiritual master of ISKCON's founder-acharya, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Above all, Bhaktivinoda Thakura taught devotion to Krishna by his personal example. His life story demonstrates a tremendous amount of courage, character and perseverance in the face of many difficulties and gives hope to those of us who may be wondering just how to find the time to serve Lord Sri Krishna, His holy names and His devotees in our ever so busy lives. **Summary of Bhaktivinoda Thakura's Daily Schedule:** Sleep 3 hours, write 8.5 hours, japa & study 4.5 hours, work 6 hours.

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105 x 74.25 mm	\$ 40
105 x 148.5 mm	\$ 50
210 x 148 mm	\$ 70
210 x 297 mm	\$100

Contact Karunika devi dasi on 0401 225 621

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GREETING THE DEITIES & SUNDAY FEAST TIMES

Morning Program

Darshan Arati: 7.00 am
Guru Puja / Kirtan: 7.10 am
Class: 7.30 am
Breakfast: 8.30 am

Sunday Feast Program

Bhajans: 3.00 pm
Class: 4.00 pm
Kirtan: 4.45 pm - 5.15 pm
Feast: 5:30 pm
Gaura Arati Kirtan is still 6.30 pm
Guests are asked to arrive by 4.00 pm