



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

Summer Festival Jan 11-13



Kirtana - Seminars - Ratha Yatra
Parikrama - Feasts

HH Prahladananda Swami
HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu
HG Narayani devi dasi
Sri Prahlad
Giri



NEW GOVARDHANA www.krishnafarm.com

525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 02 6672 3047

SPECIAL GUESTS

HH Prahladananda Swami
HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu
HG Narayani devi dasi
Sri Prahlad
Giri



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

Prabhupada uvaca ...

So spiritually, appearance and disappearance, there is no difference. Just like in material point of view, if a person takes birth... Suppose you get a son born, you become very happy. The same son, when passes away, you become very unhappy. This is material. And spiritually, there is no such difference, appearance or disappearance. So although this is the disappearance day of Om̐ Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, so there is nothing to be lamented. Although we feel separation, that feeling is there, but spiritually, there is no difference between appearance and disappearance. There is a song, Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura's song, ye anilo prema-dhana. Do you know, any one of you? Can you sing that song anyone?

*Ye anilo prema-dhana,
karuṇā pracura,
heno prabhu kothā gelo*

*Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī
Gosvāmī Disappearance Day, Lecture
- Los Angeles, December 13, 1973*

RETURNING TO MAYAPUR



Shyama and Sukha feed Visnupriya and Laxmipriya at Sri Dham Mayapur

by *Govardhana Seva*

Many of you will have been pleased to see enthusiastic devotee Seva Kunja devi dasi and son Shyamasundara back on the New Govardhana farm.

Seva, Ekendra and their family recently moved to Sri Mayapur Dham, which had been their goal since they first visited as a newly married couple in 2003. Seva will be taking Ariel, who has recently finished year 10, back to Mayapur to continue his studies at the SMIS (Sri Mayapur International School).

Ekendra dasa spent several years at New Govardhana where he rendered a number of services at different times during his stay.

He taught at the Gurukula, was part of the Child Protection Team, and was the managing editor for ISKCON News. He managed the community mailing list and did most of any editing that was required, including the first two editions of the Visitor's Handbook. Alongside these services Ekendra attended the SAE (School of Audio Engineering) at Byron Bay to develop his lifelong passion of creating and recording devotional music. He has helped devotees with their devotional CDs and arranged a number of *kirtana* programs for the public in the Byron area. Cooking for Sri Sri Radha Govardhandhari was his favourite service. In Mayapur he plans to run a recording studio for devotional music, audio books, and to help with the Temple of Vedic Planetarium.

While saddened to see the family return to Mayapur the residents of New Govardhana wish them all the very best.

BONFIRE KIRTAN

Submitted by *Karunika devi dasi*

The Krsna Village came alive on the first Friday of the month with a Bonfire Kirtan.

Hundreds of individually painted jars with tealight candles lit the pathway into the village creating a magical mood. Colourful

flags, hand-crafted lanterns and fairy lights added to the festive night. Around the bonfire young and old devotees danced to a variety of melodies. The Bhajan Babas opened the night followed by Mallika, Chandra, Vrnda and Janardana. Mohini Murti devi dasi graced the stage for the first time

with a "soul" performance, backed in the last set by 15-year-old Rohini. Rohan on acoustic guitar and accompanied by Madreya dasa and Kirsty Patangaroa kept everyone up and dancing till the end.

We would like to thank the organiser Madreya along with the WWOOFing community for such an inspiring event.

A REMARKABLE MUM

by *Mandakini devi dasi*

Asesa Sadhini devi dasi periodically pops off to Melbourne to see her remarkable mum, whom she affectionately calls Dorothy the Dinosaur.

Already in her 96th year, Dorothy had the pleasure of seeing Srila Prabhupada on TV in the early seventies. "What a wonderful man", she declared.

Mother of six daughters, Dorothy was more than happy when two of her girls took up Krishna Consciousness seriously. She embraced a vegetarian diet and frequented Gopal's restaurant and the Melbourne temple over a period of many years.

Now comfortably situated in an Aged Care facility, Dorothy celebrated her most recent birthday in style. Staff member, Subha Laxmi devi dasi, together with Asesa arranged a group of devotees to visit her and perform an enthusiastic *kirtana*. To further enhance the experience, many of the elderly ladies dressed up in Subha's saris.

Weighing in at 40kg and 4ft 10inches tall, our little dynamo packs a powerful preaching punch. Hands in the air, she chants with gusto and is very quick to let everyone in sight know that she is a vegetarian.

One time, upon spotting fish on another's plate, she rebuked the person, saying, "Those little fishies on your plate have mums and dads too, you know!".



Asesa Sadhini devi dasi

Asesa Sadhini devi dasi (inset) and her mother Dorothy.



Urvasi devi dasi

18-year-old Zebu-cross bullock Iksvaku left his body in December.

Vaku, as he was affectionately referred to by his main carer Urvasi devi dasi, touched the lives of many at New Govardhana. He was not a particularly affectionate guy and his only real interest in humans seemed to be the yellow bucket that they carried with his food in it. He wasn't so much interested in being brushed or fussed over either. However, during the time he prepared for death, Vaku allowed well-wishers to tend to all his bodily needs (even pats and brushing).

Due to arthritis he was no longer able to stand by himself. For a number of years he had been referred to as "Sitting Bull" as he would sit on his haunches as shown in the photograph of him below.

For the first week or so he moved about six metres across the paddock simply by shifting from side to side on his hind quarters. This was actually a godsend. It meant that he didn't develop as many pressure sores as would have normally been the case had he not been able to move at all. Due to the diligent care he received he only suffered minor abrasions. The natural insect repellent supplied by Govardhana Seva dasa and Ekadasi devi dasi greatly assisted with the management of these wounds.

He continued to enjoy eating until

the last few days. He had always been the first to recognise my car when I drove through the paddocks to feed the geriatric herd each day, and made a beeline straight for the food. Even though it was very difficult for him, he had always managed to struggle to his feet each and every day.

From day one of this pastime I made sure that Srila Prabhupada's chanting could be heard by him 24/7, as well as reading to him each afternoon. Gandharvika devi dasi from Melbourne sat with him for many hours most days singing bhajans and reading from Bhagavad Gita. There was also a small team of dedicated WWOOFers such as Christa and Robbyn from Holland, Gordon from Montenegro, and



Urvasi devi dasi

Iksvaku was also known as "Sitting Bull"

locals Kip, Peter, Crystal, Del, Baga¹ (thats his name) and Heidi, who all came outside of their normal volunteer work hours to serve Vaku. Special thanks go to Bhaktin Sharne of Port Macquarie, who travelled here twice to assist and encourage the team assisting Iksvaku.

Thanks also go to Padma devi dasi for bringing some of Vaku's favourite veggie scraps and reading to him, and to Gita Govinda devi dasi who assisted in so many ways, and stayed with Sharne and me for the all night vigils two days leading up to his passing.

These final days for him were extremely difficult. He was no longer able to sit and gave up

eating and drinking, save a little of Padma's Cow Bliss Balls, and medicine mixed with molasses and a little water. He seemed to relish the reading and chanting and especially in the last few days became agitated if the reading stopped. On Tuesday 4 December at 8.00 am he breathed two calm, silent breaths and he was gone. The following day a burial took place and a stone painted by Christa was placed on the grave after a short ceremony with *kirtana* and offerings. Big thanks to Trayadisa dasa for helping us with the burial, using his excavator.

Iksvaku's departure is a lesson to us all, highlighting the process of cow protection, right up until the last breath.

Srila Prabhupada tells us in Krishna Book:

"It is also significant that Vasudeva inquired about the welfare of Nanda Maharaja's animals. The animals, and especially the cows, were protected exactly in the manner of one's children. Vasudeva was a ksatriya, and Nanda Maharaja was a vaisya. It is the duty of the ksatriya to give protection to the citizens of mankind, and it is the duty of the vaisyas to give protection to the cows. The cows are as important as the citizens. Just as the human citizens should be given all kinds of protection, so the cows also should be given full protection".

If anyone would like to contribute to the care of the "oldies" in Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari's herd please contact Urvasi. Many of them have arthritic conditions and your help towards supplying feed supplements to make their lives more comfortable will be greatly appreciated. — The Editors.



Headstone painted by WWOOFer Christa

GURUKULA FINAL ASSEMBLY



by *Urvasi devi dasi*

The newly completed school hall was the perfect venue for a very well attended event. Not just parents, but well-wishers of the Gurukula from the general community of devotees also attended the final assembly.

The colourful drama depicting Krishna lifting Govardhana Hill was organised by Mandakini devi dasi and Vilasa Manjari devi dasi. The costumes were impressive and the children obviously had a wonderful time, as did the audience.

Urvasi devi dasi



Recently the Gurukula held its final assembly for the year. This program included the presentation of various awards to the students for both academic achievement and personal development - every student received accolades.

The school also farewelled three of its teachers, Vraja Vilasa dasa who will join his family in Mayapur soon, Mother Jane and Yasoda devi dasi.

Hosted by principal Vinod Bihari dasa, with guest of honor HH Mukunda Maharaja, the event was a huge success, culminating in a wonderful "burgers and fries" lunch prepared by Dhriti Gopi devi dasi and Karunika devi dasi, with helpers.

Urvasi devi dasi



Some of this years winning entries in the Tweed River Regional Art Gallery.

L. to R. Illustrations by Narayani, Lakshmi, Gita and Bhavya

MAYAPUR ACADEMY

by Damodara Pandit dasa

Each year you might notice the absence of Nrsimha Kavaca dasa and Damodara Pandit dasa during the months between Kartika and Gaura Purnima.

This is because they both teach Arcana in the Mayapur Academy at that time. The Academy was established in 2007 as a joint venture between the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry and the Mayapur Deity Department. The course teaches all aspects of Deity Worship including cooking, dressing the Deity, *samskaras*, Temple worship and mantras. Since the inception of the course Damodara Pandit Das has been coordinating the 'Cooking' module of the course. He invites many of ISKCON's best

Mayapur Academy



chefs in to give presentations. Students then get to cook the recipe after being instructed. At the end of the morning all the *prasada* is offered to Lord and all the teachers and students take lunch *prasada* together. "It is a tough gig" say DPd "associating with advanced *sadhus* in the *dhama* and eating delicious *prasada*". For more info visit the Mayapur Academy website www.mayapuracademy.org or its Facebook page.

Mayapur Academy



LETTER OF APPRECIATION by Sonia Junttila

To the members of The New Govardhana Community 5 December 2012, Brisbane

My name is Sonia Junttila. I'm a film-maker from Brisbane. Last winter my crew and I came down to New Govardhana to make a short film entitled, 'Radical'.

We were treated with great hospitality and patience during our stay, and for that we are very much grateful. My sincere thanks to Mandakini devi dasi for bringing us to the community, to the Temple President for allowing us to film on the grounds and to Damodara Pandit dasa for all his help and delicious catering.

Many thanks to all the countless others who welcomed us and guided us around during our stay.

Best Regards
Sonia Junttila

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 14th 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, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

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

PRIME MINISTER CHANTS HARE KRISHNA

by Urvasi devi dasi

Prime Minister Julia Gillard chanted the Holy Name recently when one of our Gurukula students (Kumari) met her at a function. The PM commented on the beauty of Kumari's *tulasi* neck beads and asked what they were. Kumari replied, "They are Hare Krishna beads". Ms. Gillard repeated, "Hare Krishna beads".

HOUSE FOR RENT

Homely Residence for Long-term Rent

2 bedrooms and 3 small rooms, sun, dining and study.
A cool outside room with plenty of room under the house.
Wood kitchen with gas stove.
Bath and shower room separate.
Great for gardening.
Peaceful creek in your backyard.
Walking distance to Murwillumbah centre.
\$260 per week
No dogs. No smoking
Sadhana.lok@pamho.net

(submitted by Karunika devi dasi)

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2013

The Summer Festival will take place between the 10 and 14 January 2013.
(exact times to be finalised - updates www.krishnafarm.com)

Thursday 10 January

- Gaura Arati
- Adhivasa ceremony

Friday 11 January

- Welcoming devotees and special guests
- Seminars
- Bhajanas
- Gaura Arati

Saturday 12 January

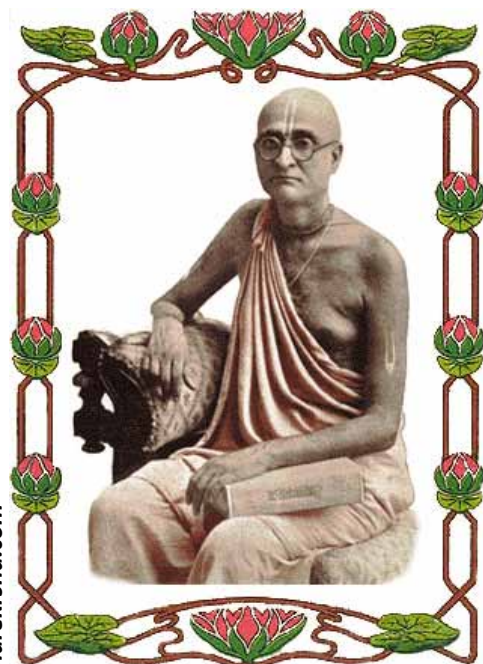
- Vraja Mandala Parikrama with Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari - hosted by Deena Bandhu and Maha Mantra Prabhu (morning)
- Seminars
- Gaura Arati
- Bonfire Kirtan

Sunday 13 January

- Morning Bhajana/kirtan
- Seminars
- Ratha Yatra- start at 3.30pm
- Gaura Arati
- Closing ceremony

Special Guests:

January 11-13	Dina Bandhu Prabhu
January 11-14	Prahladanada Swami
January 11-18	Narayani Mataji
	Sri Prahlad
	Giri



*Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Swami Maharaja .
The anniversary of his disappearance
(tirobhava) will be celebrated
1 January 2013*

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
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

JANUARY CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calender www.vaisnavacalender.com)

1 Tu	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura -- Disappearance
8 Tu	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi Sri Devananda Pandita -- Disappearance
9 We	Dvadasi Break fast 5.01 am – 09.37 am
10 Th	Sri Mahesa Pandita -- Disappearance Sri Uddharana Datta Thakura -- Disappearance
13 Su	Sri Locana Dasa Thakura -- Appearance
14 Mo	Srila Jiva Gosvami -- Disappearance Sri Jagadisa Pandita -- Disappearance Ganga Sagara Mela
23 We	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)Fasting for Putrada Ekadasi
24 Th	Dvadasi Break fast 5.13 am – 9.14 am Sri Jagadisa Pandita -- Appearance
27 Su	Sri Krsna Pusya Abhiseka



Urvasi devi dasi

Gokula dasa and Vilasa Manjari devi dasi have almost finished building the walls of their mudbrick house and expect to start on the roof very soon.

The reasons for building in mudbrick are many, such as low environmental footprint, cool in summer and warm in winter, pleasant ambience, cheap as dirt (with 8% cement thrown in), long lasting (hundreds of years), attractive, and Srila Prabhupada wanted devotees on New Govardhana to build using local material as far as possible.

Gokula dasa and Vilas Manjari devi dasi's house nearing completion

Gokula considered using soil from New Govardhana, but realised that he would need to take soil from two different sites and mix them to get the right clay content for the bricks. This was going to be an expensive process and also leave two excavation sites, so he decided to import the soil from a local quarry. They are proud that almost all the timber used in their house has been cut, milled and processed on the farm.

The main challenges using mud bricks is that it is more labour intensive than the conventional brick veneer. Each brick weighs 19 kilograms and with 4500 bricks, the total weight of the walls exceeds 90 tonnes. The mudbrick flooring will be another 34 tonnes of dirt. All this material is moved manually. Cutting and processing the timber is also another significant labour investment.

They look forward to moving into their house in 2013, and are hopeful of completing the 160 square metre building for \$50,000.

THERAPY FOR BODY & SOUL *By Mandakini devi dasi*



Sharne Teudt

Sri Sri Gaura Ntia from Port Macquarie visit New Govardhana regularly

Her home altar features the deity forms of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai Who are worshiped every day with offerings and fresh clothes.

Many devotional pictures adorn her consulting room. Wearing *tilaka* and playing devotional music, she attracts lots of questions of a

spiritual nature from her clientele. Apart from her massage and preaching therapy, Sharne is particularly drawn to cow *seva* and invariably finds herself helping in the paddocks when visiting the farm. Says Sharne, "When I am not at the farm, I miss the association of the devotees and cows very much. I like to serve Krishna's cows by doing whatever needs to be done on a daily basis. When the regular chores are done, we relish spending peaceful times with the herd, brushing them and chanting our rounds in their association."

Sharne plans to visit New Govardhana from 10-18 January 2013 to help serve and facilitate the visit of HG Narayani devi dasi.

Every four to six weeks, remedial massage therapist Sharne Teudt hops on a train at Port Macquarie to make the seven-hour overnight journey to visit New Govardhana. While resident at Port Macquarie, Sharne misses the association of devotees.

Urvasi devi dasi



Gir cow Padma and Sharne

Anyone who would like to help Sharne assist Narayani Mataji during Narayani's visit can contact Sharne on 0304 811 881.

KIDS CORNER

