

August 2013



THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

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

NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community



krishnafarm.com

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

JANMASTAMI

THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST

RUPA GOSWAMI

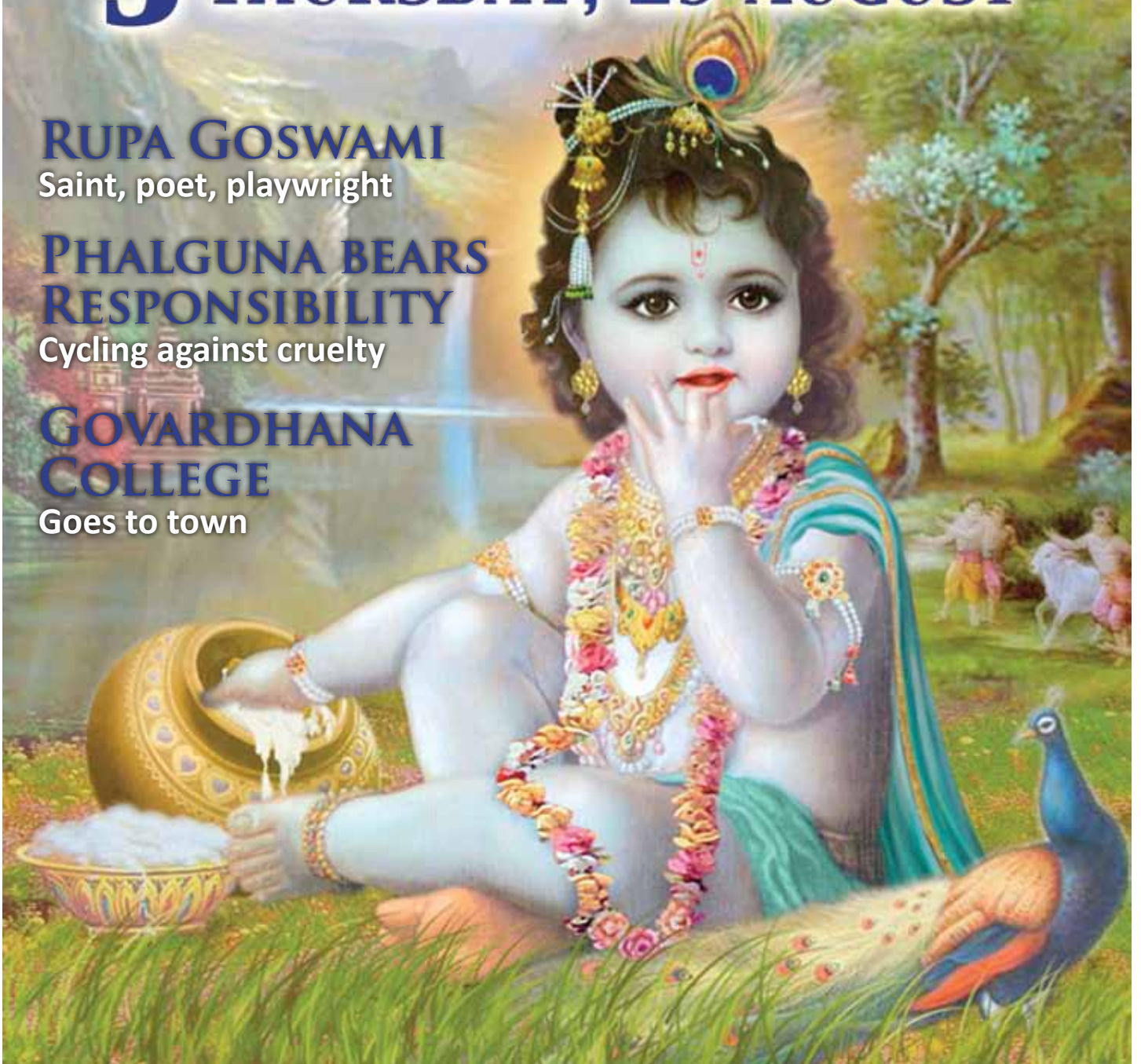
Saint, poet, playwright

**PHALGUNA BEARS
RESPONSIBILITY**

Cycling against cruelty

**GOVARDHANA
COLLEGE**

Goes to town



astrogems.com

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + CATERING KATHA + YASODA'S MEDITATION MAGIC

SRILA RUPA GOSVAMI

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Srila Rupa Gosvami – the younger brother of Srila Sanatana Gosvami – appeared in 1489 in Karnataka, South India.

Even before meeting Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Rupa Gosvami had already written several books on Vedic philosophy and was renowned for his learning and devotion.

In 1514, Rupa and Sanatana met Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu for the first time and were initiated by Him. Rupa left government service and spent 10 days hearing the philosophy of Krishna consciousness from Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Himself.

Sri Chaitanya then ordered Rupa Gosvami to go to Vrindavana with a fourfold mission: (1) to uncover the lost sites of Lord Krishna's pastimes; (2) to install Deities of the Lord and arrange for Their worship; (3) to write books on Krishna consciousness; and (4) to teach the rules of living a devotional life.

At first Rupa Gosvami felt great difficulty carrying out the desire of Lord Chaitanya. But one day, while Rupa was sitting on the bank of the Yamuna River contemplating his mission, a beautiful boy came to him and asked the cause of his despondency. Rupa Gosvami explained why. The boy then led him to a small hill.

"Inside this hill," said the boy, "is the beautiful Deity Govindadeva." He said that the Deity had been buried to protect Him during a Muslim invasion. The next day Rupa Gosvami led a group of villagers to the site and had them excavate the hill. The Deity Govinda was unearthed. Rupa Gosvami then had a magnificent temple constructed under the patronage of Emperor Akbar and Maharaja Man Singh of Amber, Rajasthan, in the north west of India.

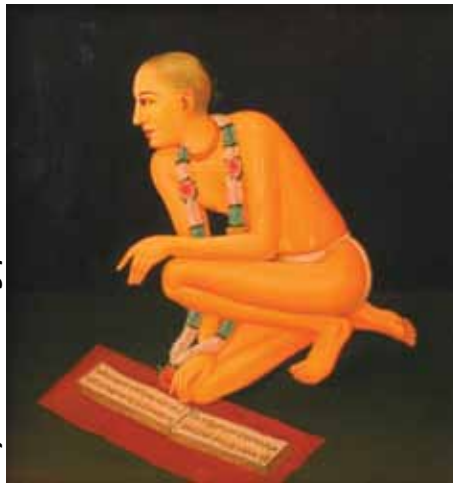
Rupa Gosvami fulfilled all four parts of the mission that Lord Chaitanya had given him, including writing many books on Krishna consciousness. He passed away in 1564. Devotees pay respects to him by visiting his *samadhi*, or memorial tomb, in the courtyard of the Radha-Damodara temple in Vrindavana. His Disappearance Day will be observed on Sunday, 18 August 2013. 🙏



iskcondesiretree.com

vaisnava.me

Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu instructs Srila Rupa Gosvami in Varanasi.



satyadevidasi.blogspot.com

Srila Rupa Gosvami wrote many books on Krishna consciousness.

Nataka-Chandrika

Among the writings of Srila Rupa Gosvami is the *Nataka-Chandrika (Illuminating Moon of Dramatics)*. This book explains the rules of Gaudiya Vaishnava dramaturgy. At present this book has not been published in English.

New Govardhana resident Damodara Pandit dasa has commissioned Sanskrit scholar Krishna Swarupa dasa to translate the work into English. If you would like to help with the first edition publishing costs of this book, please contact Damodara Pandita on 0415 190 313.

References: Research by Shyamasundari devi dasi, Girls Vaisnava Academy, Alachua, Florida extracted from <http://backtogohead.in/srila-rupa-goswami-disappearance-day-august-26/>



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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

"So in the advent of Krishna, we shall try to understand the philosophy of Krishna. His Excellency was speaking of peace. The peace formula is there, spoken by Krishna. What is that?"

bhoktaram yajna-tapasam sarva-loka-mahesvaram suhridam sarva-bhutanam jnatva mam santim ricchati [Bhagavad-gita Chapter 5, verse 29]

"... The politicians, diplomats, they are trying to establish peace in the world ... The United Nation is there, and there are many other organisations. They are trying to have real peace and tranquillity – no misunderstanding between man to man, nation to nation. But that is not happening.

"The defect is that in the root is wrong. Everyone is thinking: 'It is my country. It is my family. It is my society. It is my property.'

"This 'mine' is illusion. In the *sastra* it is said:

janasya moho 'yam aham mameti [Srimad Bhagavatam 5.5.8]

"This 'I and my' philosophy is illusion."

Reference: Srila Prabhupada Janmastami lecture – London, 21 August 1973.

GOVARDHANA COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Damodara Pandit dasa

As part of our expanding educational initiative, Govardhana College has formed a partnership with Murwillumbah Community College. Beginning August 2013, it is the first offering of courses that local devotees will teach. *Please support this endeavour by signing up for any course that interests you.*

International Vegetarian Cuisine with Damodara Pandit

Students will explore the traditional vegetarian cuisine from diverse cultures, including Indian, Thai, Chinese, Mexican and Italian. Each week, students learn recipes for a complete vegetarian meal from a specific cultural cooking style. Class participants will then share what they have cooked as a delicious evening meal.

Date: 6 August (for six consecutive Tuesdays)

Time: 5.30 pm–8.00 pm

Fee: \$180; concession: \$164

Great Indian Literature with Madhavendra Puri Durr

This course interactively looks at a long history of Indian classical Sanskrit literature. Students will gain insight into how these various works have shaped India and the world today, discussing social dynamics

and intrigue with mythological tales of adventure and hardship. The course will include readings, class discussions, costumed cultural displays and visual media of modern depictions of these classical Indian literatures.

Date: 7 September (for four consecutive Saturdays)

Time: 10.00 am–12.00 pm

Fee: \$80; concession: \$72

Introduction to Traditional Indian Dance – Odissi with Mohini Murti

Odissi is one of the most lyrical and sensuous of the eight types of Indian classical dance. You will be introduced to *mudras* (hand gestures), footwork, *bangis* (bends) and the basic vocabulary of this beautiful art form as you are guided through this ancient Indian choreography.

Date: 10 August

Time: 10.00 am–2.00 pm

Fee: \$56; concession: \$50



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Mohini Murti devi dasi (centre) with three of her dance students.

Gypsy Soul – Sacred Fusion Dance with Mohini Murti

Join in with this fun and easy-to-learn dance style that references global tribal dances, including American Tribal Dance, Indian Classical, African, Flamenco and Raqs Sharqi, as a basis to this upbeat and creative way to exercise and to express yourself.

Date: 17 August (for six consecutive Saturdays)

Time: 10.00 am–12.00 pm

Fee: \$165; concession: \$150

DON'T MISS OUT! For more information, call (02) 6672 6005 or visit: mbahcc.net

BHAKTI YOGA COURSE

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Join us for our Govardhana College three-month Bhakti Yoga Course. Classes will be held at New Govardhana, 525 Tyalgum Road, Eungella from 18 August to 17 November 2013.

The course is:

- For all newcomers (men and women) who want to immerse themselves in the study and practice of Krishna consciousness;
- Open to all. There are three different ways you can become involved in the Bhakti Yoga Course:
 1. Residing outside the farm, but daily attending the course;
 2. Residing in the *ashrama* where you can experience temple life, including the morning prayers, meditation and different activities throughout the day; and
 3. Devotees already living on the farm and who are aspiring for initiation. Completion of the course is a prerequisite for recommendation for initiation.

The course will cover three handbooks entitled *Devotional Practice; Theology & Philosophy;* and *Vaishnava Culture*. Classes will be held three days per week on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 4.00–6.00 pm.

Students completing the course are awarded the Govardhana College Certificate in Bhakti Yoga. The head facilitator for the course is Uddhava Priya dasa. Other facilitators (in alphabetical order) will include Ajita dasa, Damodara Pandit dasa, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP); Krishna Gana dasa; Nrsimha Kavaca dasa; Padma devi dasi; and Vaishnavi devi dasi.

For more information, please contact Uddhava priya dasa at uddhavapriya.rns@gmail.com or phone Damodara Pandit dasa: 0415 190 313



GOVARDHANA
college



Photographer Unknown

Uddhava Priya dasa.

PRAYERS EXPAND AT CASTLE

By Yasoda devi dasi

During 2012, I was asked to lead a weekly meditation group run over a four-week period at 'Castle on the Hill', Uki. My task was to devise a program to introduce Vedic knowledge and practice to fit into an existing meditation group. I enlisted the help of Srimati Poudal, and we came up with a plan.

We successfully ran this group and were asked to return in 2013 for another four weeks. We further developed and expanded upon our original concept.

Each week I arranged an altar on a table in the middle of the group, with Radha Krishna Deities as the focus. They were introduced to the group as the 'Divine Mother and Father'. I found that a common understanding of language was most important within the group, as the participants all had their own unique spiritual understanding.

I commenced each evening with an interactive philosophical talk, sequentially exploring the topic over the four weeks of 'Controlling the Mind and Senses'. This was followed with Srimati offering a candle-lit *arati* service to the Deities. The participants were all mesmerised with this, and very reverently accepted the *maha-prasadam*.

During this service, we emphasised the offering of each of the elements to the Deities, followed by *bhajan*s. We would finish the evening with bowls of delicious vegetarian soup and very enlivening conversations. 🙏



Photo: Emma Rochester

L to R: Castle on the Hill Meditation group leaders, Srimati, Elias and Yasoda

GOOD ON YA' MADDY!

By Padma devi dasi and Mandakini devi dasi

Three years ago, Madhavendra Puri dasa, the second son of Krishna Kirtana dasa and Malini devi dasi, travelled to New Radhadesha in Belgium to study at Bhaktivedanta College. This seat of learning is affiliated with the prestigious University of Chester in the UK.

Madhavendra has recently returned to New Govardhana, having successfully completed a three-year course for a Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies. He received outstanding results in the course, with first class honours for his dissertation on 5th Canto of *Srimad Bhagavatam* in the subject of Cosmology.

At present, he is currently enrolled in a course for a Graduate Certificate in Writing at The University of New England, Armidale. He has further hopes to attain a Masters and a PhD degree in the not too distant future.

An offer has already been received from HG Ravindra Svarupa dasa for Madhavendra to help undertake research for the Vedic Planetarium in Sri Dham Mayapur.

Congratulations, Madhavendra, on your excellent achievements. We do hope that you will continue to reside in the vicinity of New Govardhana, where we may have the benefit of your exceptional qualifications as our own New Govardhana College develops. 🙏



Photo: Gopi Ramana dasa

Madhavendra Puri dasa at Radhadesh, Belgium.

GURUKULA NEWS

By Louise Kloff

Term 2 was a busy one for the Gurukula. Years K-2 were learning all about 'Who helps us in the community', which involved interactions with various community members, such as a visit from Doctor Kishori; dance and music lessons with devotees; visits to the *goshalla* and Mother Dhriti's kitchen; and to the Murwillumbah Fire Station.

Years 3-5 were learning about appreciating and caring for Mother Bhumi, with focus on global warming

and deforestation. Years 6-8, apart from their other busy curriculum, had the opportunity to create permaculture gardens at the school with the help of Mother Vilasa and Gokula Prabhu.

Our Years 3-8 also participated for the first time in the regional cross country day, with great results. Gour Magripalis won first place in his age group (12 years), and was invited to participate in the state championships in Sydney. 🙏

NEW GOVARDHANA ON COMPASS SHOW

The new Compass series *Whatever happened to ...* aired its inaugural episode on Sunday, 14 July at 6.30 pm, focusing on the Hare Krishnas. The program included many shots of Srila Prabhupada and the New Govardhana landscape.

Overall, it was a positive program where a number of former New Govardhana gurukula students were interviewed. It is estimated that nearly half a million viewers Australia-wide tuned in to the 30-minute broadcast. 🙏



Photo: Trevor Gore

New Govardhana's green landscape as seen on a recent ABC TV broadcast that featured devotees who grew up among these rolling hills.



New Govardhana will host a special Holy Name Retreat this year from 4–7 October. Featuring Bhurijana dasa and his wife, Jagattarini devi dasi, the retreat will include workshops on strengthening *japa*, dramatic readings, Krishna *katha* and *kirtana*. Assisting in the *kirtanas* will be Sri Prahlad dasa and Janardana dasa.

For more information, please visit: holynameretreat.com

THE NEW GENERATION OF NEW GOVARDHANA

By Govardhana Seva dasa

The past 12 months have been auspicious due to the birth of several babies to devotees associated with the New Govardhana Community.

On the 15 October 2012, Ram Vijay McRae was born to Sita devi dasi and Shyama dasa in Brisbane. Shyama is a former resident of New Govardhana, but with his wife and new family member are still regular visitors. Dandakaranya dasa and Vrindaranya devi dasi were blessed on 8 March 2013 with the birth of daughter Nalayani Rose at Murwillumbah.

Shortly afterwards, on 23 March, Gaurapriya Prasad was born to Kisori devi dasi and Nrsimhananda dasa at Nambour on the Sunshine Coast. The family now live locally and are regular attendees at New Govardhana.



Photo: Vrindaranya devi dasi

L to R: Nalayani Rose, Dandakaranya dasa and Vrindaranya devi dasi.

Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), who recently moved to New Govardhana, became a grandmother on the 8 May when her eldest son Sri Madhava Gauranga dasa and his wife, Sri Radhe devi dasi, were blessed with the birth of Anjaneya dasa in Nabadwip, India, a third generation ISKCON baby.



Photo: Nrsimhananda dasa

Gaurapriya Prasad, daughter of Kisori devi dasi and Nrsimhananda dasa.

Karunika devi dasi and Dhaneshwara dasa, together with Krishna Kirtan dasa and Malini devi dasi became grandparents in June when Anikula devi dasi and Bhisma dasa gave birth to Ishaya Namoha, who was also a third generation baby for both families. 🙏

CATERING KATHA

By Mandakini devi dasi

After five hectic weeks on the road, Krishna Gan dasa, Bhakta Steve and Bhakta Adam recently returned to New Govardhana, happy to see the hills of home.

Catering for festivals in Townsville, Cairns and Mackay, the trio received their usual enthusiastic welcome from the many *prasadam* fans.

This trip also included a couple of home programs. One came about when Krishna Gan spotted a notice on Facebook asking if anyone would like to start a *kirtana* night in Townsville. The request came from a local professional who invited all her academic friends.

The evening was a great success as doctors and teachers participated in *sravanam* and *kirtanam* before partaking of the delicious *prasadam* the crew had prepared.

Another successful home program was held at Airlie Beach, when former New Govardhana resident Carol made herself known to the devotees at the Mackay Carnival.

Special recipient of Lord Chaitanya's mercy was Johnno, who happened upon the devotees in a sit-down *kirtana* at Airlie Beach. Intoxicated, troubled and on the run from the police, Johnno was loud, outrageous and obnoxious. Former abattoir worker, self-confessed murderer, thief and drug addict, he was not very easily placated.

The *kirtana* group patiently explained the benefits of singing the Holy Name, encouraging him to join in the chanting. Before too long, Johnno was 'into it' and became very subdued and peaceful. He soon warmed to the devotees and asked if he could accompany them to Townsville as a volunteer! 🙏

The kirtana group explained the benefits of the Holy Name, encouraging Johnno to join with them in the chanting. (L to R: Steve, Odin and Adam.)



Photo: Krishna Gana dasa



Lord Balarama, Lady Subhadra and Lord Jagannatha ride on their chariots during the recent Ratha-yatra festival.



Krishna Bhakti devi dasi, Lalita Benson, Priya McCauley and Kalindi Cozzie perform an Odissi dance for Lord Jagannatha.



Devotees and guests pull the chariot during the final phase of the procession. More than 600 people attended this year's festival.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank all the devotees who worked hard to make the Ratha-yatra festival weekend a huge success. Of special mention is the enthusiastic Bhakta Dennis (below right) for his tireless work backstage cleaning Krishna's pots.



The stage at the Bonfire Kirtana night (left); the Bonfire burned throughout the night (below left); decorations were organised by Guru Prasad devi dasi (below centre); Sharmi Scott and Mohini Murti perform at the Bonfire Kirtana night (below).



FREE THE BEARS

By Mandakini devi dasi

Every week Phalguna dasa cycles a staggering 400km in his training sessions. His discipline serves him well, as he recently made the longest bike ride of his life in aid of abused bears.

Phalguna and three other vegetarian team members clocked up an impressive 320km in 10 hours. Within that distance, they covered 3500m of rolling hills. This gruelling charity ride for abused bears managed to raise more than \$3000.

These unfortunate bears are locked in tiny cages with tubes attached to their stomachs, as bile is gradually extracted from them to be used in the manufacture of perfume.

Besides riding for charitable causes, Phalguna works at his co-owned restaurant, The Cardamom Pod, Broadbeach, which keenly supports the Murwillumbah Cycling Club. The club's uniforms proudly display the slogan, 'Gourmet Vegetarian, Cardamom Pod'.

Each week, five cycling grades enthusiastically compete in the popular 'Cardamom Pod Handicap', with the winner of each grade receiving a generous food voucher from the restaurant.

Phalguna's next big challenge will be in October when he takes on a 230km ride from Grafton to Inverell. In the meantime, he will be limbering up by competing in several mountain bike events. 🐾

drivetonature.blogspot.com



Happy bears in the wild.

Photographer Unknown



Phalguna dasa (third from left) with his cycling buddies during a recent ride.

DEITY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mandakini devi dasi interviews New Govardhana's head pujari, Nrsimha Kavaca dasa

Q: What's the latest news from the Deity department?

NK: At the moment, I am focusing on increasing the standard of cleanliness. Srila Prabhupada told ISKCON's first pujari, Silavati devi dasi, "The idea is summit cleanliness. That will satisfy Krishna."

I am also working on ensuring we have a steady team for back-up services, such as cleaning paraphernalia, washing towels and making garlands. Another goal is to offer the Deities a night set. I am hoping to begin that service for Radhastami this year. We can start by offering night outfits for major festivals, then gradually increase as the community grows.

Q: What are your plans for Janmastami?

NK: This year, we are planning to have a swing festival and, of course, a *maha abhisheka*. There are four special *kalashas* for sponsorship: two gold and two silver. Sponsors will receive a bag of 'goodies'.

I am striving to put Their Lordships very much in the centre of our community. We are most fortunate to have such beautiful Deities. I want to encourage devotees to come forward and engage in Their service. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity and a great privilege. 🐾

SERVICE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The New Govardhana Deity Department seeks volunteers for :

- Garlands
- Paraphernalia
- Festivals

Take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity to render some loving service to our beautiful presiding Deities. For further details, please contact: Nrsimha Kavaca dasa and Asesa Sadhini devi dasi on 0422 913 813 or Dandakranya dasa on 0450 965 992.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles for The Conch must contain 200 words or less. Submissions should be supplied in MS Word format in an email to newgovconch@gmail.com. Articles and images may also be submitted via memory stick, disk or hard copy. Photos must be in JPG format. Deadline is the 12th of each month for publication in future editions. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. Articles and photographs must have the names of the author and photographer.

Anonymous submissions may not be published. Names will generally appear as submitted. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice. These guidelines are subject to change.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)
Damodara Pandit dasa
Mandakini devi dasi
Govardhana Seva dasa
Urvashi devi dasi
(layout and graphic design)
For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact newgovconch@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Poster: Urvasi devi dasi



His Holiness Bhaktividya Purna Swami will visit New Govardhana from 7 August until 9 August. He will be presenting a seminar 'Cultures of Civility'. The times for the seminars are 7.30 am for the morning sessions and 5.00 pm for the evening sessions.

Photo: travellingmonk.com

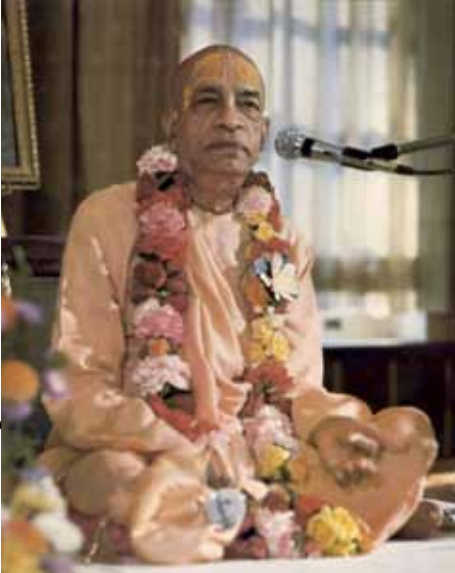


His Grace Uttamasloka dasa is also visiting New Govardhana this month.

He will be here from Friday, 2 August until Tuesday, 6 August.

He will presenting a seminar, 'Developing Self-esteem' based on teachings from the *Bhagavad-gita*. The seminar will be held on Saturday, 3 August, Sunday, 4 August and Monday, 5 August; morning sessions at 7.30 am and evening sessions 5.00 pm.

Photo: back2godhead.com



Srila Prabhupada Vyasa Puja (Fast until noon)

Friday 30 August

9.30 am Bhajanas
10.30 am Homages and Readings
12.00 pm Gurupuja and pushpanjali
1.00 pm Feast

Photo: lazarev.ora



Jhulana-yatra

Saturday 17 August – Wednesday, 21 August

Each morning from 17–21 August

7.00 am: Darsana
7.05 am: Guru puja
7.15 am: Swing festival
7.40 am: Srimad Bhagavatam class

Sunday feast program – 18 August

3.00 pm: Bhajanas
3.20 pm: Class and arati
4.00 pm: Arati, kirtana and swing festival
4.45 pm: Feast

Balarama Jayanti

Wednesday, 21 August

9.30 am: Bhajanas
10.00 am: Class
10.45 am: Gift opening
11.00 am: Abhiseka
12.00 pm: Arati and kirtana
12.30 pm: Children's activities
Transcendental treasure hunt
1.00 pm: Feast

Janmastami

Thursday 29 August

5.00 pm: Bhajanas
6.00 pm: Gurukula dramas
6.30 pm: Sandhya arati
7.15 pm: Swing festival
8.00–9.00 pm: Bhajanas in marquee
8.15–9.00 pm: Class in temple room
9.00 pm: Odissi dance
9.30 pm: Bhajana
9.45 pm: Abhiseka
10.45 pm: Sponsor appreciation
11.00 pm: Kirtana in temple
12.00 pm: Midnight arati
12.30 pm: Feast

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, contact
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

AUGUST CALENDAR

(from Vaisnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 3 Sat Fasting for Kamika Ekadasi
- 4 Sun Trayodasi Break fast 6.27 am – 10.04 am
- 11 Sun Sri Raghunandana Thakura – Disappearance
Sri Vamsidasa Babaji – Disappearance
- 17 Sat Fasting for Pavitropana Ekadasi
Jhulana Yatra begins
- 18 Sun Dvadasi Break fast 6.15 am – 9.58am
Srila Rupa Gosvami – Disappearance
Sri Gauridasa Pandita – Disappearance
- 20 Tue Caturdasi Last day of the first Caturmasya month
- 21 Wed Jhulana Yatra ends
Lord Balarama – Appearance (fast today)
Second month of Caturmasya begins (yogurt fast for one month)
- 22 Thu Srila Prabhupada's departure for the USA
- 29 Thu Sri Krsna Janmastami: Appearance of Lord Sri Krishna (fast today)
- 30 Fri Nandotsava
Srila Prabhupada's Appearance

KRISHNA KIDS KORNER

Find the words listed below and circle them with a pen or pencil.
The words may appear horizontal, vertical or diagonal – even backwards.

A T L A P O G L A B J Y
R N R M A D H A V A M V
A I N I J D K D G G D P
D R P B V A V A H S E K
N A B U B I N J A B M B
U N L D N N K N Y A M V
S J Y A A Y H R C **M A T**
M A X T P S A H A S D W
A N H I I O Y H U M D J
Y A Q R R U G D T L A D
H T K Y T A E N N D R M
S Y Q A N V H T T W X G

Achyuta - Balgopal - Gopal - Hari - Jagannath - Keshava - Krishna - Madhava
Niranjana - Punyah - Shyamsundara - Trivikrama - Vasudev

