

October 2013



# THE CONCH

[www.theconchnewsletter.org](http://www.theconchnewsletter.org)

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



## NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community

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

## 2ND ANNUAL HOLY NAME RETREAT

The Great Journey to Vrindavana  
with Bhurijana dasa & Jagattarini devi dasi

## GOING BANANAS! Local festival fun

## HUG A COW Real therapy

## FLOWER POWER Flying high

## SPECIAL ISSUE

Holy Name Retreat bumper edition:

- Map
- Program
- Festival Information

# THE MONTH OF KARTIKA

By Ambika devi dasi

Sri Krishna states: "Of all months, Kartika is most dear (to Me)". During this month, any service rendered to Him has great benefit.

Kartiki is a name for Srimati Radharani, and, as such, to hear Her glorification during this month is also very auspicious.

The other name for this month is Damodara. When Baby Krishna broke butter pots in retaliation for Mother Yasoda putting Him down after she had been carrying Him, she chased the Lord to chastise Him. He who is Fear Personified ran in fear. When He allowed her to catch Him, she attempted to bind Him. Despite bringing many ropes, He could not be bound. Krishna is bound only by the rope of love.

Seeing her fatigue and wonder, the Lord eventually allowed her to tie Him to a wooden grinding mortar. With this, He soon liberated two devotees imprisoned in bodies of massive trees within the garden.

In honour of this sweet pastime, devotees offer lamps daily to the Lord and sing the devotional *Damodara-ashtakam*, composed by Satyavrata Muni. According to *Hari-Bhakti-Vilasa*, this song attracts Lord Damodara.

"If someone burns a lamp in the temple of Sri Krishna even for a short time [during Kartika] then whatever sins he has acquired for millions of *kalpas* are all destroyed."

Let us all take advantage of this auspicious month to deepen our love for Sri Sri Radha and Krishna. 



#### References:

*Padma Purana Uttara Khand 112.3*

*Puranas and quoted on*

*iskcondesiretree.net*

*Sri Hari-Bhakti-Vilasa 2: 16: 198*

Mother Yasoda binds Krishna to a wooden grinding mortar after He mischievously caused havoc in her kitchen.



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

## Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Caitanya Mahaprabhu teaches us that we should only beg God for His service life after life. This is the actual meaning of the Hare Krsna *maha-mantra*. When we are chanting Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare/ Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare, we are actually addressing God and His energy, Hara.

Hara is Krsna's internal potency, Srimati Radharani or Laksmi. Jaya Radhe! This is *daivi prakrti*, and the devotees take shelter of the *daivi prakrti*, Srimati Radharani. Thus the Vaisnavas worship Radha-Krsna, Laksmi-Narayana and Sita-Rama.

In the beginning of the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra* we first address the internal energy of Krsna, Hare. Thus we say, 'O Radharani! O Hare! O energy of the Lord!' When we address someone in this way, he usually says, 'Yes, what do you want?' The answer is, 'Please engage me in Your service.' This should be our prayer. We should not say, 'O energy of the Lord, O Krishna, please give me money. Please give me a beautiful wife. Please give me many followers. Please give me some prestigious position. Please give me the presidency.' These are all material hankерings, which should be avoided.

— *Teachings of Lord Kapila, the Son of Devahuti*

# THE CONCH TOOTS ITS HORN – AGAIN!

By Urvashi devi dasi

This issue marks the second anniversary of *The Conch* newsletter. From its inception in October 2011, this New Govardhana monthly publication has become more and more popular with each edition.

For each issue the editorial team strives to bring the latest news and information to our community and congregation. With 100 printed copies delivered personally and an online electronic version, *The Conch* newsletter has only gone from strength to strength.

From births, deaths and marriages, to upcoming festivals and news from the various departments at New Govardhana, *The Conch* has reached a new level of professionalism in recent times with the addition of Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP) to the team, and we look forward to bigger and better things for the future.

Don't forget, it's your newsletter and we would like to invite you all to contribute stories and photos to share with the rest of our community. 

# HUG A COW – REAL THERAPY

By Mukunda Goswami

A small farm in the Netherlands has started a new program for people seeking to reduce their stress levels. No, it's not meditation, the psychologist's couch or a deep tissue massage – it's cow hugging.

Visitors pay AU\$21 per hour to hug the cuddly cows. Many visitors spend close to AU\$63 for this experience.

"In order to get your stress level down, you can either follow therapy, get a massage or meditate", says one news commentator at the start of an international TV broadcast about cow hugging.

Unrealised by many, cows are domestic animals. Instead of humans using dead cows for food and leather products, living bovines and their by-products have been used for centuries for nutrition, as transport for people and goods and as fuel for cooking. Bullocks (or oxen) have been ploughing fields since time immemorial.

Says Kelliann Blazek, MA graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Cow hugging is 'petting zoo meets meditation'. I can definitely attest to the calming effect petting a cow brings. Think of how many times you've seen small children curled up with cows at county fairs or other shows. Most cows are gentle and maternalistic; they make us feel safe and protected."

The therapeutic use of cow hugging is now spreading to countries around the world – and cow hugging at New Govardhana is free! ☺

**For a full report, visit: [www.dailymotion.com/video/xsm86s\\_cow-hugging-a-new-remedy\\_news](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xsm86s_cow-hugging-a-new-remedy_news)**



Photography: Urvashi devi dasi

Cowherds Sharne (above) and Artur (below) know all about the benefits of cow hugging – there is no shortage of cows to hug at New Govardhana.



## BANANA FESTIVAL FUN

By Padma devi dasi

On Saturday, 31 August, New Govardhana devotees once again took to the streets of Murwillumbah to participate in this year's Banana Festival. The *hari-nama* party, lead by Bhakta Ariel, chanted and danced from Murwillumbah showground, along Main Street and down towards Knox Park. Books, flyers, garlands and flower posies were also distributed to curious onlookers.

New Govardhana devotees have participated in the Banana Festival for many years now, and it is a tradition that both devotees and Murwillumbah residents look forward to. There have been several requests made to the devotees to include our big *ratha* cart in the parade, as we did a few years ago, but transportation costs for our cart are very high. There has been talk of devotees building a smaller *ratha* cart specifically for parades such as the Banana Festival, which could easily be transported to local and regional events. ☺



Photography: Gokula dasa



*The hari-nama team distributing the nectar of Krishna's Holy Names downtown Murwillumbah.*

*Devotees with Banana Jim and Sugar Sue (sugar-cane), who were garlanded by the devotees.*

# FLOWER POWER

*By Mandakini devi dasi*

When Dhriti Gopi devi dasi visited the flower market in Melbourne early this year, she was thrilled at the lavish display of high-quality blooms and amazed at the extremely low prices.

Her usual experience in acquiring flowers from Rocklea Market, Brisbane, meant that for festivals she needed to purchase all the available stock from the two existing vendors. Dhriti was always disappointed by the lack of quantity, quality, choice and high cost.

She began exploring how she could procure first-class flowers for Their Lordships, such as those she had seen in Melbourne.

After much research and careful consideration, Dhriti concluded that she could fly to Sydney flower market

accompanied by adept helper Guru Prasad devi dasi for \$49 each, and select the flowers from a choice of 175 stalls! They could pack them up ready for the trucking company and have them delivered directly to Murwillumbah for a mere \$85.

Krishna made further arrangements for the ladies when Dhriti was introduced to Nityananda Prana dasa in our gift shop. Living directly opposite the Sydney temple, he kindly offered to facilitate their service with overnight accommodation and transport to and from the market.

The artistic and breathtaking flower displays that we have appreciated so much for the past two festivals is a great credit to the dedication of Dhriti Gopi and Guru Prasad. ☺



Photo: Trevor Gore

*Srimati Radharani wearing the flower dress and ornaments offered by the devotees of New Govardhana.*

## SPRING FLARE

*By Damodara Pandit dasa*

Special congratulations go to the organisers of the Brisbane festival, 'Spring Flare'. The festival, which was inspired by 'Holi' (a Hindu celebration involving throwing of colour dyes) was organised by the younger generation of Krishna devotees.

Held on Saturday, 14 September, 2013 at St. Lucia, Brisbane, the event was an outstanding success.

Narayana (known locally as 'Himmy'), who fronts the headline band, Willow Beats, said, "More than 2000 people attended and it was a great day for all – not bad for a first-time gig!" ☺



*Primarily observed in India and Nepal, Holi is a spring event celebrated as a festival of colours. It is a Hindu religious festival that has also become popular with people of other communities. Pictured here is the recent Spring Flare festival in Brisbane.*



Photography: Dhriti Gopi devi dasi

*Devotees prepare various flower ornaments and dresses for Radhastami.*



*The vast array of flowers (above) purchased from the Sydney flower markets (below).*

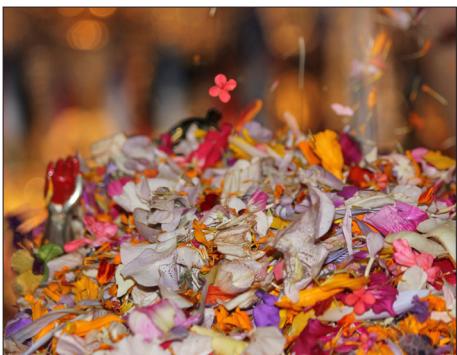


## SNAPSHOTS

Photography: Urvasi devi dasi



Alalanatha dasa (above) assists with the puspa abhisheka celebrated recently on the most auspicious appearance day of Srimati Radharani. Under an avalanche of flower petals (below) Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari increase the ecstasy of the devotees by temporarily disappearing from their view. Many devotees and guests commented that to date it was one of the sweetest festivals held at New Govardhana.



Photography: Trevor Gore



Each week devotees from New Govardhana travel up and down the NSW coast to distribute books, prasadam and the Holy Name. Above left, the devotees led by Uddhava Priya dasa and Garuda dasa perform sankirtana, while at Coolangatta Sadhana devi dasi (above right) distributes Srila Prabhupada's books to locals and tourists.



Suryani Dyalu was born on Sunday, 18 August at Tweed Hospital. Proud parents Dhruvananda dasa and Dhaneshvari devi dasi are pictured above with their new daughter. Suryani's grandparents are Markandeya dasa and Sudevi devi dasi.

Rupa Raghunatha dasa and Sadhana devi dasi in Byron Bay distribute books and prasadam to tourists from all over the world.

# WELCOME TO NEW GOVARDHANA'S HOLY NAME RETREAT 2013

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The retreat this year is hosted by Bhurijana dasa and his wife, Jagattarini devi dasi. We also look forward to some wonderful *kirtanas* led by Sri Prahlad dasa and Janardan dasa.

The local devotees will be able to help you with all your needs, but there are certain devotees allocated to specific areas.

General enquiries: Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 190 313

Accommodation enquiries: Bhaktine Larissa 0411 308 837

Transport enquiries: Caitanya dasa 0478 556 947

Farm tours: Mahamantra dasa 0413 669 345

All other enquiries: Ajita dasa 0419 645 305

We hope you have a wonderful stay and immerse yourself in the serenity of New Govardhan *dharma* and the nectar of the Holy Name. Nama Prabhu ki jaya! Srila Prabhupada ki jaya! 



Photography: Urvashi devi dasi

## FEAST FOR THE EYES

By Urvashi devi dasi

This is a particularly colourful time to visit New Govardhana. Spring is in full force, which generally means good weather, and a palette of colours reminiscent of the spiritual world.

While you are here with us celebrating the glories of the Holy Name, please use some of your free time to wander around and meet the local devotees while taking in the wonderful views. 

## THE HOLY MARKET

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The New Govardhana Temple Shop was first established approximately 20 years ago to provide for the devotional needs of the community.

It carries a range of devotional books, clothing, beads, Deities, music, DVDs, *tilaka* plus basic toiletries like soap and toothpaste. The Temple Shop is stocked with new items regularly, so we look forward to your patronage.



Photo: Trevor Gore

## BHAKTI YOGA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



By Damodara Pandit dasa

The Bhakti Short Film Fest will be held at the Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah on Thursday, 3 October starting at 6.00 pm. The door charge is only \$10 and includes a vegetarian meal. This year the film fest will include films such as *Make Vrindavan Villages*, *Sanatana Goswami Vaisnava Sudacar*, *Mayapur Gurukula Martial Arts*. Plus there will be other new devotional films.

Last year the Bhakti Short Film Fest was a great success. Don't miss out this year.

For more information contact Damodara Pandit dasa on 0415 190 313.

## SHOP SALE

At present there's a sale on saris and some t-shirts. Pop in and ask the friendly shop staff for assistance.

For any enquiries, please call: (02) 66 72 3047

Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

2nd Annual

# Holy Name Krishna Katha Retreat

The Great Journey to Vrindavana



4 ~ 7 October 2013



HG Bhurijana Prabhu & HG Jagattarini Mataji

Kirtanas led by Sri Prahlad and Janardana

[holynameretreat.com](http://holynameretreat.com)



## PROGRAM

### Friday 4 October

**5.00 pm–8.00 pm:** Welcome, introductions, slideshow and *kirtana* with His Grace Bhurijana dasa and Her Grace Jagattarini devi dasi (Gurukula Hall)

### Saturday 5 October

**7.30 am–9.00 am:** *Katha* and *kirtana* with Jagattarini devi dasi (Temple)

**9.00 am** Breakfast

**10.30 am–1.00 pm:** *Kirtana, japa* strengthening session and Krishna-katha with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)

**1.30 pm:** Lunch

**5.00 pm–7.00 pm:** *Kirtana, japa* strengthening session and Krishna-katha with Bhurijana dasa (Guru Hall)

**7.10 pm–8.30pm:** Dramatic reading and *kirtana* with Jagattarini devi dasi (Gurukula Hall)

### Sunday 6 October

**7.30 am–9.00 am:** *Katha* and *kirtana* with Jagattarini devi dasi (Temple)

**9.00 am:** Breakfast

**10.30 am–1.00 pm:** *Kirtana, japa* strengthening session and Krishna-katha with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)

**3.30 pm:** Sunday Feast served

**5.00 pm–7.00 pm:** *Kirtana, japa* strengthening session and Krishna-katha with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)

**7.10 pm–8.30 pm:** Dramatic reading and *kirtana* with Jagattarini devi dasi (Gurukula Hall)

### Monday 7 October

**7.30 am–9.00 am:** *Katha* and *kirtana* with Jagattarini devi dasi (Temple)

**9.00 am** Breakfast

**10.30 am–1.00 pm:** *Kirtana, japa* strengthening session and Krishna-katha with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall) Bhurijana dasa and Jagattarini devi dasi close.

**1.30 pm:** Lunch

**4.00 pm–5.00 pm:** New Govardhana Parikrama with Maha Mantra dasa

**5.00 pm–8.30 pm:** *Bhajanas, Gaura Arati, Kirtana:* (Temple)



Private Residences

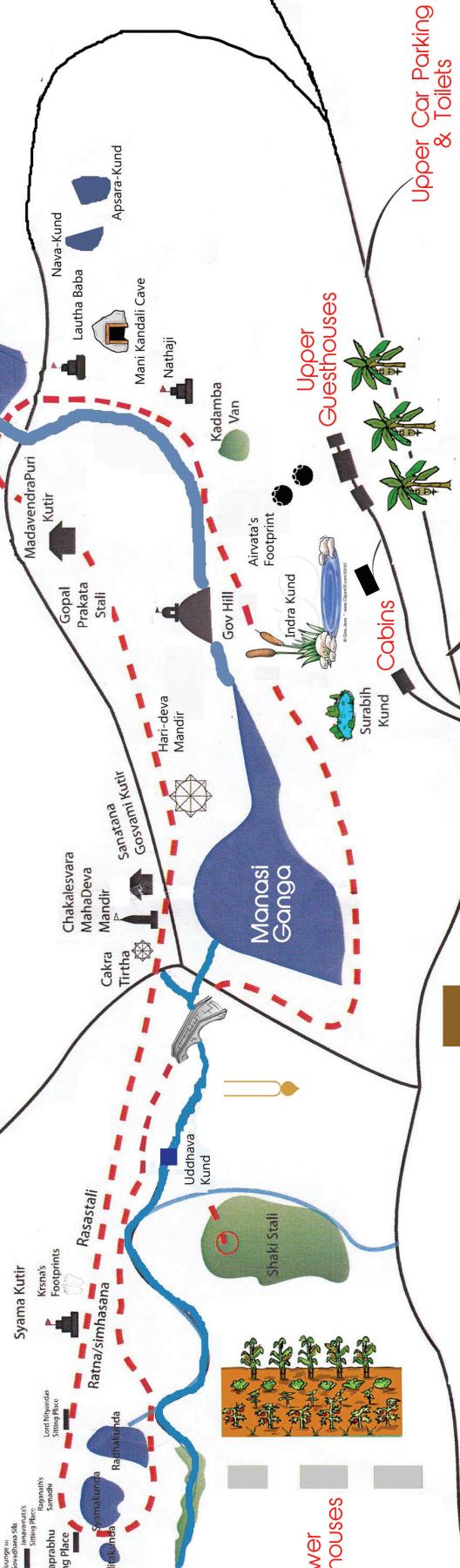


Brahmachari Ashram

Private Residences



Govinda Kunda



Upper Car Parking & Toilets

Doka Dauji Rest Stop

Entrance & Bridge

"The White House"

Goshala



*Map of New Govardhana*

New Govardhana Parikrama Path



Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari Temple

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA

## His Grace Bhurijana dasa



HG Bhurijana dasa first met Srila Prabhupada at 26 Second Ave in New York, and was initiated in 1968.

After preaching in Japan for almost a year, in 1970 he opened ISKCON's first Hong Kong centre.

Throughout the early 1970s, Srila Prabhupada frequently met with Bhurijana during Srila Prabhupada's tours of the Far East: Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

In his last meeting in 1976, Srila Prabhupada requested Bhurijana to help develop the educational system. Since then, Bhurijana has taught both academic and *ashrama* courses in Gita-Nagari and Vrindavana and has conducted several teacher training courses in Vrindavana.

In 1987, in Vrindavana, he began the Vaisnava Institute for Higher Education (VIHE), where he has taught courses in teaching, writing and on Srila Prabhupada's books – *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *The Nectar of Devotion*, *The Nectar of Instruction* and *Sri Isopanisad*.

Bhurijana has written several books, including *The Art of Teaching*, *Surrender Unto Me* (an in-depth study of the *Bhagavad-gita*), *Studying Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *My Glorious Master* and *Unveiling His Lotus Feet* (in-depth study of the 1st and 2nd Cantos of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*).

## Her Grace Jagattarini devi dasi



HG Jagattarini devi dasi joined ISKCON and first met Srila Prabhupada in America in 1970 (many of you may have heard of this famous story of a successful actress becoming a devotee). Through her connections with the movement, Jagattarini met her husband, Bhurijana dasa, and together they pioneered a *nama-hatta* centre in Hong Kong.

Srila Prabhupada encouraged her to use her artistic talents in attracting people to the cultural side of devotional service. Some years later, this manifested during her stay at the Gita Nagari farm in the US as a series of puppet shows, later presented for worldwide viewing by ITV. In 1983, she moved with her family to Sri Vrindavana *dhama*, and they spent the next 13 years teaching in Bhaktivedanta Gurukula, Vrindavana.

After touring the sacred land for years, Jagattarini amassed a treasury of realisations about different pastime places in Sri Vrindavana *dhama* and developed a deep attachment to them.

Since 1996, Jagattarini, Bhurijana and family have been based in Perth, where Bhurijana lectures on the *Bhagavatam*. Jagattarini continues to draw on her artistic inspiration from Vraja *dhama*, and since 1998 she has been working on producing miniature three-dimensional diorama exhibits, depicting Krishna's nectarean Vrindavana pastimes.

# THE VISITOR'S HANDBOOK REVISITED

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Around seven years ago, the first edition of the *Visitor's Handbook* was published. It was 12 pages and written and produced using Microsoft Word by Ekadasi devi dasi and myself. It was edited by Ajita dasa and Ekendra dasa.

Graphic designer Radhe Shyam devi dasi designed and typeset the second edition of the Handbook, which had increased to 16 pages. The same production and editorial team used for the first edition were involved.

For the third edition, management decided to form a committee, with Urvashi devi dasi being introduced to the team as the graphic artist and typesetter. The result was a completely new design and content, which proved very popular. Collectively, 10,000 copies of the first three editions have been distributed.

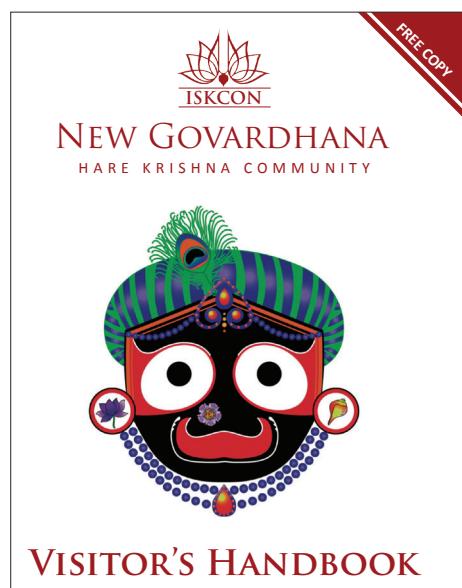
The fourth edition, which will be ready in October 2013, is the result of many hours of work for the

current team, consisting of Mukunda Goswami, Krishnarupa devi dasi (acbsp), Urvashi devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Ekadasi devi dasi and Damodara Pandita dasa.

The prime objective of the *Visitor's Handbook* is to provide the people visiting New Govardhana with detailed information about the Community. There will be copies available in the *Visitor's Handbook* box outside the Temple shop for legitimate purposes and requests should be made to Damodara Pandit or other members of the Handbook team.

While spreading Krishna consciousness is very commendable, recently there have been a few problems caused by devotees taking large numbers of Handbooks from the *Visitor's Handbook* box outside the Temple shop and using them as handouts at *hari-namas*, book distribution and other events.

It is proposed to have a single page leaflet printed on both sides with all the basic details of the Community for this purpose, as printing the Handbook is very expensive and should only be used for its intended purpose. 



## THE PARIKRAMA PROJECT CONTINUES

Photography: Urvashi devi dasi



By Urvashi devi dasi

One of the most exciting projects at New Govardhana would have to be the Parikrama Path Project.

Festival organisers are pleased to announce that during the Holy Name Retreat there will be a *parikrama* starting at 4.00 pm sharp on Monday, 7 October.

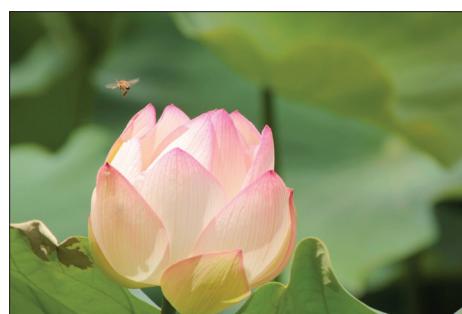
If you are able to make arrangements to stay through till Monday afternoon and join us on this spiritual journey at New Govardhana, you will not be disappointed.



(Above left) Mahamantra dasa preparing for New Govardhana Parikrama.

(Above) Deena Bandhu dasa narrates the boatman story.

(Above right) Mathura Rico escorts Srila Prabhupada on parikrama.



# GOSHALA GOSS

By Urvashi devi dasi

On the day before Radhastami two of Krishna Balarama's *gir* cows each gave birth to adorable heifer calves. Maharani was born to Kunti while she was grazing with the rest of the herd, and later that night assisted by Venu Gopal dasa, Radhika was born to Raga at the *goshala*. Both were sired by Madhu.

Both mothers haven't been particularly affectionate, and they both have exceptionally large teats – making suckling very difficult for the babies.

Only a matter of days after her birth, Maha Rani started to show signs of lethargy, and the cowherds noticed she was not walking properly. Once the vet was consulted, it was confirmed that she had been poisoned by a paralysis tick, and even though she was given the best care possible, a few days later she left her body, despite her valiant attempt to fight the poison.

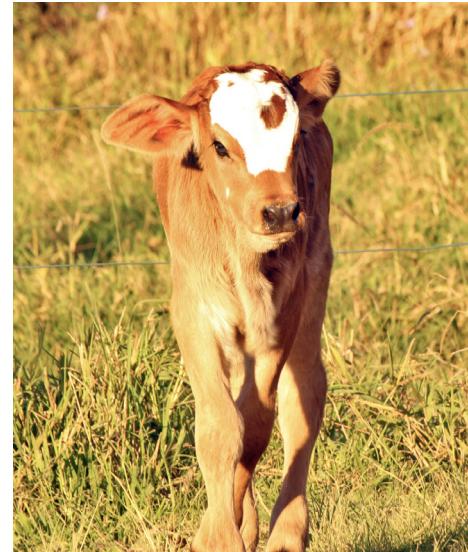
Radhika also had a shaky start, being rejected by her mother Raga. But due to the dedication of the cowherd team, who have shared round-the-clock hand feeding and other essential care, Radhika is getting stronger and stronger each day. Her mother allows her to suckle in the mornings while she is in the milking stalls at the *goshala*, but the rest of the day she is hand fed milk and water. ☺

Photography: Urvashi devi dasi



Above L to R: Maha Rani sizes up the situation with her mother's over-sized teats. Venu Gopal dasa encourages the baby to suckle with Kunti, her mother – with some measure of success.

Below L to R: Maha Rani being hand fed by Venu Gopal. Despite her short stay with us, Maha Rani endeared herself to all those who met her.



Radhika perfectly displays the features of her breed – long pendulous ears and convex-shaped forehead.

If you would like to sponsor a calf like Gaurachandra (above) please contact Venu Gopal dasa at 0411 444 934.

## A VALUABLE LESSON

By Kishori devi dasi

He was lying on his side in the paddock shaded by a tent, soft hay beneath his body. A big, majestic creature ... now so helpless. Vasu the bull was dying.

That first visit, Nimai, my six-year-old son, and I performed *kirtana*, patted him and took the dust from his hoof on our heads.

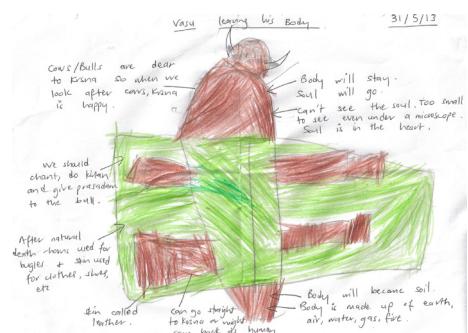
Mother Urvashi explained that Vasu loved hearing Krishna's Vrindavana pastimes, and we know that devotees aspiring to reach Krishna's abode must remember Him at the time of death.

Vasu was preparing to leave his body in a holy place while hearing the *maha-mantra* and Krishna's pastimes. Such a departure meant he would return to Krishna or take a high human birth.

Nimai was full of questions. What was Vasu's destination? What would happen to his body? What does the soul look like?

When we got home, he drew a picture (right) of Vasu lying down covered by his blanket. Is death painful? Was my baby sister a bull in her last life? On our second visit, we again chanted. Mothers Urvashi, Gita

and Bhaktine Alyssa had been keeping a constant vigil. Vasu left peacefully through his mouth as Urvashi chanted to him – a glorious departure. ☺



Drawing of Vasu by Nimai (6 years old).

# DEVOTEE PROFILE – GARUDA DASA

**By Mandakini devi dasi**

Renowned cook, preacher, *bhakta* leader, *nama hatta* preacher, *pujari* and *sankirtana* stalwart, Garuda dasa, first came in contact with devotees when he attended a folk music festival at Stoker's Siding late 1976.

He subsequently frequented programmes at Burleigh Heads, which were organised by travelling bus leader Sabhapati dasa.

Within six months, while attending a Gaura Purnima festival in Melbourne, he decided to move into the *brahmachari ashrama* there.

Garuda underwent his spiritual training under the guidance of Ramai Swami, who was the senior *brahmachari* at that time. Garuda later became a full-time book distributor of Prabhupada's books.



Photo: Trevor Gore  
Garuda dasa wears many hats. Here he is pictured on the regular Wednesday harinama at Byron Bay.

His next experience in Krishna consciousness was to become an assistant to the famous Hare Krishna chef, Kurma dasa. It was from Kurma

that he received his basic training in the art of Vedic cooking.

A year later Garuda transferred to the Adelaide temple, where he became the head cook.

When he attended the installation ceremony for Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari in 1981, he agreed to become the head cook and *pujari* for Their Lordships.

Garuda has recently returned from Shri Dhama Mayapur where he completed the *Bhakti-shastri* course.

Apart from his many cooking commitments and *pujari* service, Garuda, who is always enthusiastic to perform devotional service, is compiling a feast cookbook, which he plans to use as a training manual for teaching young devotees how to cook feasts for Krishna.

## ONE WOMAN'S ROAD TO KRISHNA

**By Govardhana Seva dasa**

Henrike Schreer came to Australia three years ago with her son, Max, and his father. They came from the city of Berlin, Germany. After arriving in Australia they decided to settle in Canberra and remained there until Henrike decided to take Max on a road trip during the last summer holidays.

While on their trip, a friend told her about the New Govardhana Community and the WWOOFing Program and they thought they'd have a look and so came to the Krishna Village to try it for three or four days.

After the four days, she found that she didn't want to leave and stayed for the whole of January. After that she agreed with Karunika, Kirsty and Madreya that she should come back, live here and help support the WWOOFer program.

On her return Henrike joined Madreya to help run the program and is now involved with bookings, accommodation, finances and other areas. During the recent bonfire *kirtana* event she organised the public relations, bookings and the advertising, including printing of the posters and handout leaflets.

When asked what it was about the Krishna community that held this special attraction to her, she replied, "The reason I came back to New Govardhana is that it reminded me strongly of a farm that my church community is running in Eastern Germany. There I was trained how to be a volunteer in pastoral care for kids, leading groups, and so on. This was when I was 14–19 years old and for me these were some of the most significant times of my adolescence – serving, singing, having special conversations and just 'being'. I had never found a place that felt 'home' like this again until I came here."



Photo: Trevor Gore  
Henrike and son, Max.

## SUBMISSION 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](mailto: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.

For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com)

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

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(layout, photography and graphic design)  
Trevor Gore (photography)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rama Vijaya Utsava

Sunday, 13 October 2013

Starting at 4.00 pm

Rama Vijaya Utsava, is a festival that celebrates Lord Ramachandra's victory over the demon king Ravana.

The program consists of:

Bhajanas

Class

Dance performance

Fancy dress parade

Feast

Children wearing the top 10 Rama lila costumes will win free coupons to Govindas Restaurant.

The grand finale of the festival will be one of New Govardhana's famous mouth-watering feasts.



Image: <http://spoki.tvnet.lv>

### HARI-NAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Image: torontokirtancommunity.blogspot.com



For all the latest information about the Holy Name Retreat and the Bhakti Yoga Short Film Festival see pages 6–9. If you still haven't registered and you would like to attend the Retreat please go to [www.holynameretreat.com](http://www.holynameretreat.com)

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

(from Vaisnava calendar [www.vaisnavacalendar.com](http://www.vaisnavacalendar.com))

### 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](http://bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au)

### Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast  
[folkrishna.com/program.htm](http://folkrishna.com/program.htm)  
**Isvara dasa 0411 825 549**

1 Tue	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Indira Ekadasi
2 Wed	Dvadasi break fast 5.24 am – 9.32 am
14 Mon	Ramacandra Vijayotsava (Celebrated Sunday, 13 October)
15 Tue	Sri Madhvacarya Appearance Day
16 Wed	Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Pasankusa Ekadasi
	Dvadasi break fast 5.11 am – 9.26
	Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami Disappearance
	Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Gosvami – Disappearance
	Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami Disappearance
	Srila Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra
	Sri Murari Gupta – Disappearance
	Laksmi Puja
	Fourth month of Caturmasya begins (urad dal fast for one month)
	Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura – Disappearance