

March 2014



# THE CONCH

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

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

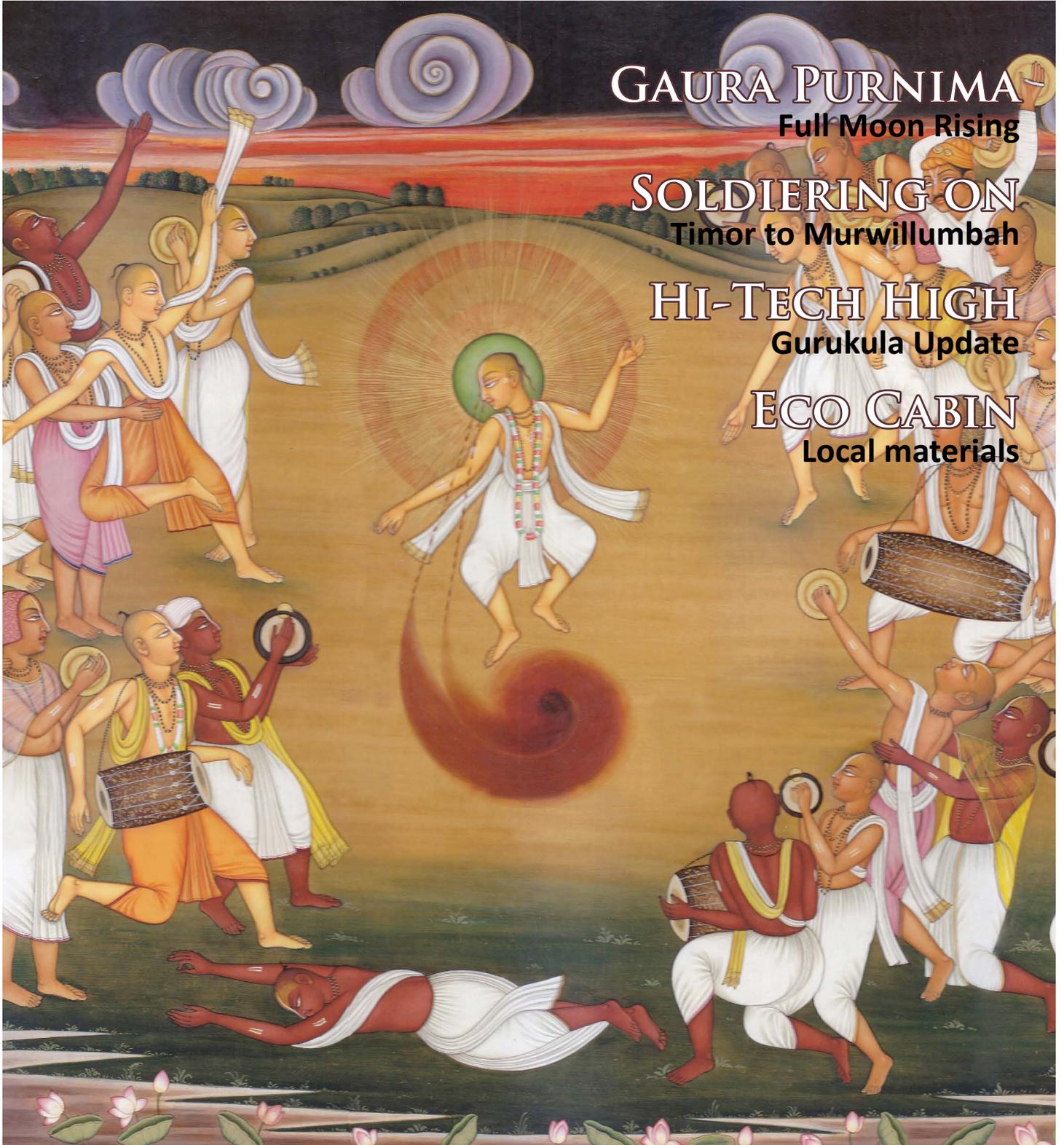
## NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community



krishnaform.com

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



### GAURA PURNIMA

Full Moon Rising

### SOLDIERING ON

Timor to Murwillumbah

### HI-TECH HIGH

Gurukula Update

### ECO CABIN

Local materials

Painting by Kailash Raj

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALA GOSS + KULI CATCH-UP Q&A

# THE GOLDEN AVATAR

By Kishori devi dasi

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu appeared at Sridhama Mayapur, on the Phalgun Purnima evening in the year 1486 on the Christian calendar. It was during a lunar eclipse, when the *maha-mantra* was resounding throughout India.

Mahaprabhu's parents' names were Jagannatha Mishra and Sacidevi and He was their tenth and youngest son. He was known by many names: Visvambhara; Nimai Pandita, and after accepting *sannyasa*, as Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.



(Left) Baby Nimai appeared on a full-moon night in 1486. (Above) Jagannatha Mishra and his wife Sacidevi with their playful baby son Nimai.

Lord Chaitanya was present on earth for 48 years, and then He disappeared in the year 1534 at Puri. For the first 24 years, he remained at Navadvipa as a student and a householder, then accepted the renounced order of life at the age of 24. Thereafter he took up residence in Puri.

The Lord's early childhood pastimes are very sweet as He was naughty and played many tricks.

As a *sannyasi*, he travelled all over India, preaching the *Srimad Bhagavatam* and propagating the teachings of *Bhagavad-gita*.

Lord Chaitanya appeared as a devotee of Krishna to establish congregational chanting as the means of deliverance in *kali-yuga*. He taught that Krishna consciousness can be achieved by chanting the *maha-mantra*.

He also left us with the eight verses of the *Siksastakam*, which tells us clearly that chanting together allows us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious. (Reference: *Srimad Bhagavatam*, Canto 1) 🙏

## BIMALA PRASAD DASA HONoured

by Kishori devi dasi

Bimala Prasad dasa was a wonderful devotee and a disciple of Srila Prabhupada. He was an intimate friend of HH Indradyumna Swami, who flew to Australia for a day to see Bimala just a few days before he succumbed to cancer. Having known the family for a long time, Tilakini McSween was keeping in touch with Bimala's wife Lalita, and on her wishes organized a *kirtana* memorial for Bimala at New Govardhan temple to coincide with the time his body was being cremated. The memorial service was attended by devotees

who spoke very fondly about him. This was followed by a second, bigger service held at the subsequent Sunday Feast. 🙏



(L) HH Indradyumna Swami visited Adelaide recently for one day, to see his dear friend (R) Bimala Prasad dasa before he left his body.

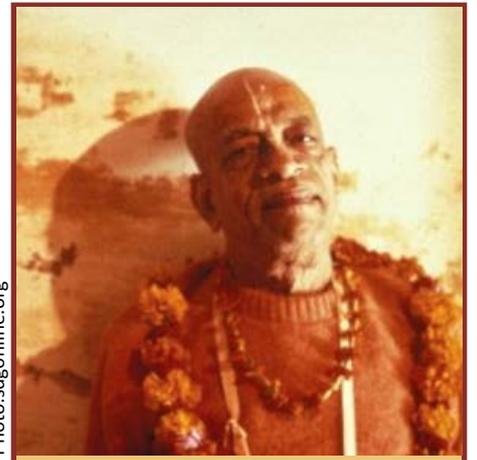


Photo:sdgonline.org

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

### Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

“... Just like a cat catching a rat in his mouth and at the same time carrying his cubs in the mouth. Superficially, we can see that the same mouth is being used, but one is feeling comfortable being carried by the mother, and another is feeling the death knell. Similarly, at the time of death, the devotee's feeling that they are being transferred to Vaikuntha, whereas the ordinary sinful man is feeling that the Yamaraja, the *dutas*, the constables of Yamaraja are dragging him to the hellish condition of life. So one should not conclude simply by seeing that he is dying. No. The process is different. *Janma karma ca me divyam*. As Lord Krishna's appearance and disappearance are all spiritual, transcendental, they are not ordinary things, similarly, Lord Krishna's devotee, His representative, who is sent to this material world for preaching the glories of Lord Krishna, their appearance and disappearance is also like Krishna's. Therefore, according to *Vaishnava* principles, the appearance and disappearance of *Vaishnava* is considered all-auspicious. Therefore we hold festivals. Just like yesterday we had the disappearance day of His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Prabhupada. So we offered our respects and observed a festival, Avirbhava, Tirobhava. Tirobhava.”

Srila Prabhupada Lecture  
*Srimad Bhagavatam* 6:1:27-34  
Surat, INDIA

# A VISITOR'S APPRECIATION

By Govardhana Seva dasa

On Sunday 13 January, Murwillumbah resident Wendy Laxton decided to visit New Govardhana for the first time. She was accompanied by her friend Mark from Redcliffe, near Brisbane. They were met by another friend, Sheypana Doyle, who was a student at the New Govardhana Gurukula 23 years ago.

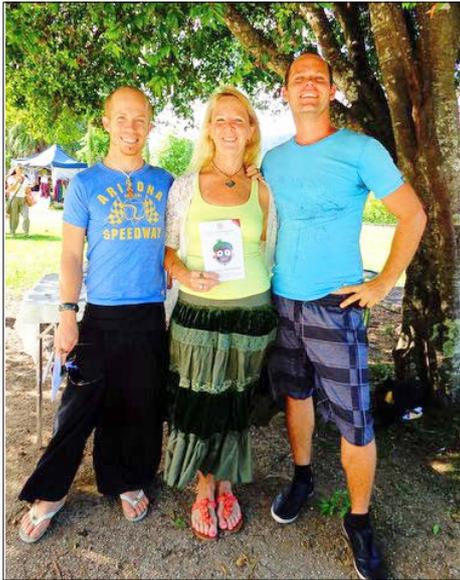


Photo: Ekedasi devi dasi

(L to R) Mark, Wendy and Sheypana Doyle enjoy an afternoon at New Govardhana.

Their first stop was the visitor's information table. They were given a Visitor's Handbook and told a little about New Govardhana and informed of the afternoon program, including the Sunday feast. They listened to the *kirtana* and Bhagavad-gita class then stayed for the feast.

Two days later Wendy sent the following email:

"Thank you so much for making us feel so very welcome. We all enjoyed the festivities very much and the food was delicious. I will be returning to up-coming festivals very soon. My greatest thanks and well wishes go to yourself, together with the beautiful lady who also greeted us on arrival. We were impressed with all of the volunteers who prepared and cooked the meal as well as serving us. We felt the love in every bite that we took."

Wendy Laxton. 🐟

# KULI CATCHUP Q&A

Govardhana Seva dasa catches up with Syama McRae

**Q. Please tell us about your gurukula experience and early recollections.**

A. I first met devotees during a Sunday Feast at New Varsana, Auckland, New Zealand in 1981. Hooked on *prasadam* and the culture in general, I convinced my mother to move there and I spent eight years boarding at the *gurukula*. Although it was tough at times, owing to ISKCON still being in the pioneering stage, I still have many fond memories. When I was 14, my mother converted to Christianity and I attended a Catholic high school.

**Q. What did you do when you finished school?**

A. While I was in high school I had no contact with Krishna Consciousness for three years. I left school during year 11 to work in a pet food factory and then on a dairy farm. I decided to visit New Varsana to see my old friends in 1993 and ended up staying for two years, before deciding to come to New Govardhana. I knew there were a lot of *gurukulis* here. This is where I met my first wife with whom I have four wonderful kids.

**Q. Please tell us about your experiences in the Army**

A. It was my childhood dream to serve in the Army and I've enjoyed the challenges and experiences of the past five years. This has included static-line parachuting and a deployment to East Timor. I've also had the opportunity to share some of the knowledge that I gained during *gurukula* with my workmates, some of whom had never heard of the Hare Krishnas. While I was on leave in 2010 I met Sita devi dasi, also a *gurukuli*, whom I later married.

**Q. What plans do you have for the future?**

A. I plan to move back to Murwillumbah within four years so that my son Ram can attend *gurukula* and my wife Sita and I can become more involved with the New Govardhana community. 🐟

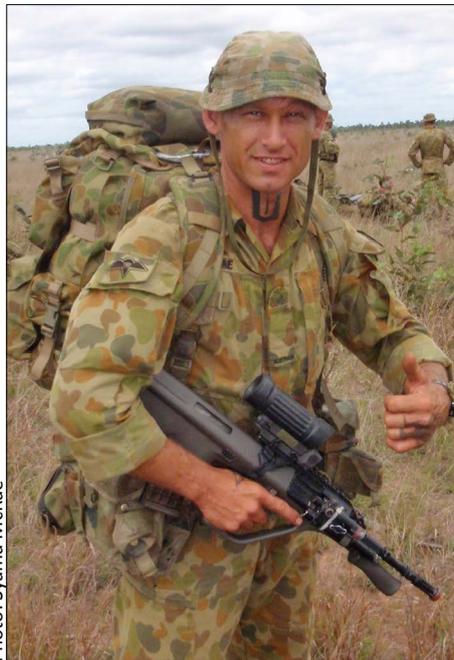


Photo: Syama McRae

Syama McRae participating in a training exercise with the ADF.



Photo: Sita devi dasi

Syama McRae on leave from ADF duty, and back home on family duty.



ONLY 40 Kalashes  
\$151.00 EACH

Contact Parama Karuna dasa  
0439 280 362

# HIGH SCHOOL

By Mandakini devi dasi

The school community understands that the period between Grade 7 and Grade 10 is a crucial time in our young devotees' development.

For two consecutive years, the Hare Krishna School Principal, Vinod Bihari dasa, has applied for Government funding to construct a dedicated high school facility on the ridge below the current Primary school.

violin, piano, guitar, harmonium and *mridanga*. The teachers are looking forward to forming ensemble groups and a school *bhajana* band as the students become more proficient.

Every fortnight, students spend the whole morning session at the temple – either helping cook with Trayadisa dasa, or doing paraphernalia service with Vilas Manjari. This enables the



Photo: Deva Gaura Hari dasa

Gurukula high school students attend classes in the new multimedia teaching space.

Determined to provide an educational facility on par with any other high school, Vinod Bihari and teacher Deva Gaura Hari dasa have worked tirelessly to implement a fully equipped interactive multimedia teaching space in the school hall, which also includes facilities for sports and music.

Beginning high school is an important step for all students, and *gurukula* staff were keen to differentiate the high school from the primary school, to acknowledge this major life step for students.

All students are able to choose from a variety of elective subjects, including cow *seva* with Venu Gopal dasa, sewing with Vilasa Manjari devi dasi and graphic design with Urvasi devi dasi.

The school has also implemented an instrumental music program, and engaged some of the top instrumental teachers in the area, to give one-on-one lessons in flute,

students to put into practice the lessons they are learning in *Vaishnava* studies.

Most of the regular classes are taught by Deva Gaura Hari, with Hari Prana devi dasi teaching science and history, and Vilas Manjari teaching visual art.

The overall mood at the *gurukula* is optimistic, as teachers and students settle in for a promising school year.

The Senior School Prospectus can be downloaded from the school website:

<http://www.krishnaschool.org/seniorprospectus>

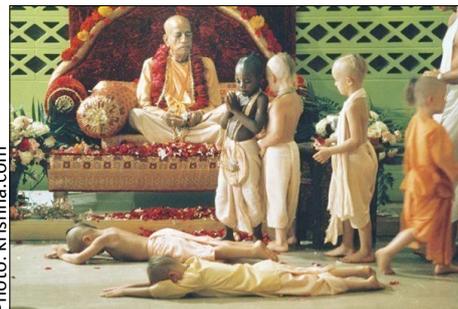


Photo: krishna.com

Srila Prabhupada with gurukula students.

# GOSHALLA GOSS

By Urvasi devi dasi

We have lots of exciting news to share this month.

Firstly, the Cow Shed Crew would like to introduce our new baby Aja to you all. Aja, a three-month-old Gir bull, has come from a property near Alstonville, where some of our other Girs were bred. While still a little unsure of his surroundings, day by day he is becoming acclimatised to *goshalla* life. (cont. on p6)

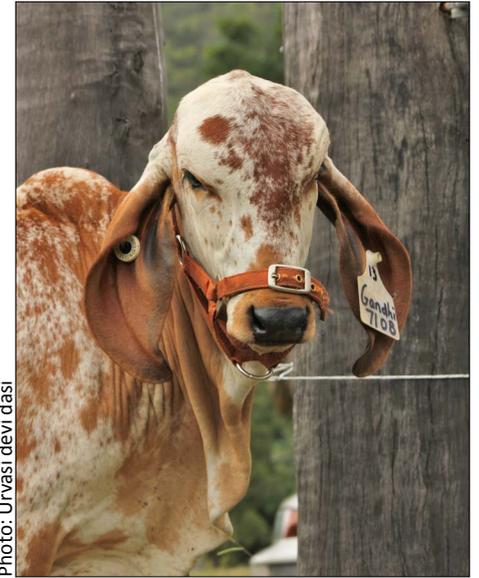


Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Aja is pure breed Gir who will continue the bloodlines of the Gir herd.

## NO NEED FOR SPEED

by Urvasi devi dasi

It has been noted that there are a number of residents and visitors who travel too fast in their vehicles on the roads of New Govardhana. Everyone is kindly requested to slow down. 🐮

**DONT MOOOVE SO FAST**



**20 IS PLENTY**

# VYASA PUJA

By Ekadasi devi dasi

On January 24 the disciples, aspiring disciples, friends and associates of Janananda Goswami celebrated his Vyasa-puja at the New Govardhana Temple.

The *vyasasana* itself was beautifully decorated and situated next to Srila Prabhupada in the temple. Disciples gave homages, praising Janananda Goswami for his enthusiasm, his friendliness and his *harinama* leadership in many parts of the world.

New Govardhana's resident Maharaja, Mukunda Goswami, was invited and gave a sincere presentation, which included a tribute to Janananda Goswami. He also told those present of his feelings when Srila Prabhupada left his body.

At that time it was generally felt that ISKCON would have difficulties without Srila Prabhupada's influence and leadership. However he was later pleased to see that Srila Prabhupada's instructions and the distribution of his books were continued by his disciples. This included our beloved Janananda Goswami, inspired by Srila Prabhupada's teachings, who continued spreading them to many parts of the world. 🙏



Photo: Ricky Lashand

(Above) Ekadasi devi dasi offers arati at Janananda Goswami's recent appearance day.

(R.Top) Logs from New Govardhana forest heading for the mill and Maha Mantra putting up the milled planks.

(R.Below) Looking through glass doors into Jayadeva's new cabin and stone-work walls using locally quarried rocks.

# JAYADEVA AND HIS CABIN

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Joachim Momodt, now better known as Jayadeva dasa, came to Australia from Berlin in 1952. He first went to Tasmania where he was contracted to work for the Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) for two years. He was sent to the site of the new HEC hydro-electric scheme at Taraleah in the remote wilderness of central Tasmania. He worked first as a pick and shovel labourer, then progressed to a carpenter's mate, eventually being recognised for his trade as a sheet metal worker.

Conditions at the HEC site were primitive and severe. Two men shared a small room equipped only with two beds with straw mattresses and outside toilets more than 30 metres away. This made it very difficult in the heavy winter snow. When his two years were completed, he moved to a more civilised life at Launceston in Tasmania's north. He worked there as a sheet metal worker for a year and a half with Tasmanian Railways.

In 1956 he moved to Spring Street, Kings Cross, Sydney, where he worked at his trade in various nearby locations. This included three years working in the Snowy Mountains. He returned to Sydney where he became a self-employed licensed plumber. He married twice, but his first marriage ended in divorce and his second wife died.

In 2003 he moved to Murwillumbah and one year later bought and renovated his present house at Byangum Road.

He was introduced to Krishna Consciousness by Krishna Premi devi dasi when she rented the upper level of his house. In 2009 he started coming to New Govardhana regularly and later met Janananda Goswami. He was impressed and became an aspiring disciple. At the age of 82, in January 2012, he was initiated. He regularly attends the 7.00 am program and then stays for the entire Srimad Bhagavatam class. Afterward he then cleans and tidies the temple room.

Recently he was given permission to live at New Govardhana, and arrangements were made for Maha Mantra dasa and his crew to build a cabin for him. It is located in the garden at the rear of the top car park, which makes easy access to the temple for him.

Some of the materials used for the construction were obtained from New Govardhana, including rocks gathered by Dharma Simpson and the WWOOFer team. The construction also included milled-up timbers obtained from New Govardhana forests.

Isvara Prabhu has been installing the plumbing and the cabin is expected to be completed by February or March, enabling Jayadeva to move in ahead of schedule. 🙏



Photo: Maha Mantra dasa



Photo: Dharma Simpson



Photo: Trevor Gore



Photo: Dharma Simpson

# TOWNSVILLE BOOMS

By Mandakini devi dasi

ISKCON Townsville is spiritually thriving, thanks to Malthi Bathan.

Malthi, who was born in Burma, came to Australia in 2000 from Fiji. She spent some years in Gladstone and Innisfail as a teacher and literacy coach, before moving to Townsville to

Photo: Courtesy of Malthi Bathan



ISKCON Townsville sat-sanga meetings.

Krishna Gan dasa at the Townsville Eco Festival. She introduced herself to the catering crew and invited them to visit her at home to take *prasadam* and perform *kirtana*. Jayanti, an aspiring devotee living in the same street as Malthi, soon came on board.

From then on, Townsville experienced the Hare Krishna Explosion.

With preaching visits from Rupa Ragunnatha dasa and family and other devotees passing through, the weekly programmes became well attended.

A *Janmastami* gathering at the local Town Hall last year attracted 150 people.

Donated books are also distributed in the area on a regular basis.

Malthi, who is presently visiting New Govardhana for a few days, has requested that any devotees travelling north, to please contact her.

Malthi email: [ebathan@gmail.com](mailto:ebathan@gmail.com)  
Mob: 0407110042 📞



Photo: Courtesy of Malthi Bathan

Malthi Bathan of ISKCON Townsville.

take up a position at James Cook University.

In 1990, her brother Srivas Pandit dasa, was the first *brahmacari* to receive initiation in Burma. He is credited with translating *Bhagavad-gita* and 1st Canto *Srimad-bhagavatam* into the Burmese language. Her parents were initiated in 1992.

Malthi started weekly *sat-sanga* meetings at her home after meeting

# IN FOCUS

By Mandakini devi dasi

In 1984, Trayadisa dasa became part of the *brahmacari* ashram in ISKCON Perth. He spent a period of three years fund-raising, preaching and distributing Srila Prabhupada's books.

Relocating to Melbourne, he continued with paraphernalia *sankirtana*, but instead of being restricted to collecting in one small city, he travelled the world.

Devotees in Melbourne were known to travel extensively in their endeavours, and Trayadisa soon experienced his first taste of overseas fund-raising with a trip to Iceland. It proved to be exciting and fruitful. Further adventures followed in exotic places like The Shetland Islands, The Faroes, Greenland and Africa.

Teaming up with other devotees in the Murwillumbah area in 2000, Trayadisa became involved in running a successful restaurant in Byron Bay, as well as presenting paintings in shopping malls.

For the past four years he has been settled at New Govardhana. He lives with his two daughters Anjali and Radhika who attend the *gurukula*. Trayadisa serves the Deities by cooking the *raj bhoga* offering twice weekly. He also cooks in Govindas restaurant at Burleigh Heads on Mondays.

Trayadisa is also part of the Cow Shed Crew. As the need arises he takes care of the burial of deceased cows and bullocks. 🐄

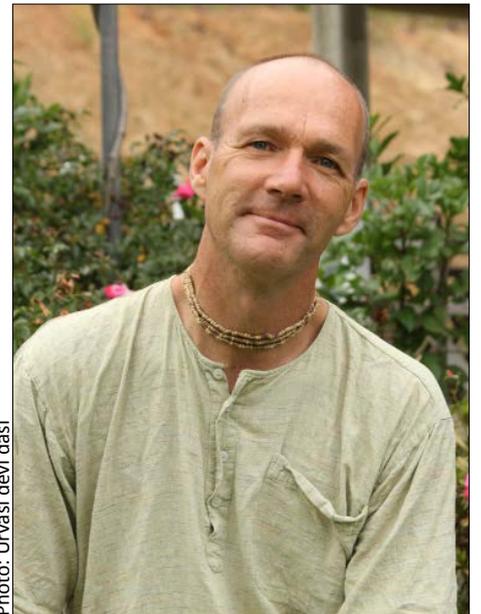


Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Trayadisa dasa is also a keen gardener.

# GOSHALLA GOSS

(cont from p4.) Already he has learnt to walk on a lead and shows much promise as a sire of future generations. He is always eager for some cuddles, so please organise with Venu Gopal dasa or Urvasi devi dasi to meet Aja and spend some time with him.

We are happy to welcome a new member to our crew. Vaishnavi devi dasi has volunteered to be responsible for the on-going maintenance of clean drinking water troughs for all our cows, calves, bulls and bullocks. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive countless blessings from Mother Cow.

There are lots of such opportunities at the *goshala* and we invite our readers to contact Urvasi devi dasi for details.

Also, we have had three people sign up for our Adopt-a-Cow program: Pooja Rani, Vidya Wasabhi and Yogita from Lismore. We take this opportunity to thank them for their support of New Govardhana's Cow Protection Program.

Aja is available for sponsorship, so be quick if you would like to "adopt" him. Contact Venu Gopal dasa to find out how you can set up your sponsorship today (0411 444 934). 🐄

# SNAPSHOTS

During the recent Summer Festival, New Govardhana hosted the first-ever 'New Govardhana's Got Talent', as well as 'Mantra Choir' with Jayadeva (pictured right).



*Danakeli Fairbairn, one of three little ballerinas who delighted the audience with their routine.*

Photo:Urvasi devi dasi



*Jayadeva brought the Mantra Choir experience to New Govardhana's summer festival.*

Photo:Urvasi devi dasi



*Bhakta Ariel did a wonderful impersonation of "The King" (Elvis) of rock and roll.*

Photo:Urvasi devi dasi



*Deva Gaura Hari Prabhu and his daughters Karuna and Malini perform as Beatbox Bhajana Band.*

Photo:Urvasi devi dasi



*Lord Nityananda sporting a garland made from pink lotuses grown at New Govardhana.*

Photo:Trevor Gore



*The abhisheka of Lord Nityananda was well attended recently. The Lord is being bathed in milk.*

Photo:Trevor Gore



*A thoughtful offering to Srila Prabhupada at Sri Nityananda's Trayodashi celebrations.*

Photo:Trevor Gore

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*The Conch* is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 200 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com). Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

the photographer. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Deadline is the 12th of each month. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.



### EDITORIAL BOARD:

*Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)  
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Mandakini devi dasi  
Govardhana Seva dasa  
Urvasi devi dasi  
(layout and graphic design)  
For enquiries, comments or suggestions,  
contact: [newgovconch@gmail.com](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com)*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Gaura Purnima 15 & 16 March, 2014

**Saturday, 15 March**  
7.00 pm *Adivasa* Ceremony

**Saturday 16 March**  
Gaura Purnima (Fasting till moonrise)  
7.30 am Greeting of the Deities  
8.00 am Srimad Bhagavatam Class  
3 - 4.00 pm Cultural activities / *bhajana* (Children)  
4.00 pm *Arati* and *kirtana*  
4.10 pm *Abhisheka*  
5.30 pm Class: HH Mukunda Goswami  
6.15 pm Opening gifts for Lord Chaitanya  
6.30 pm Gaura *Arati*  
7.00 pm Feast  
7 - 9.00 pm Cultural activities / *bhajana* (Adults)

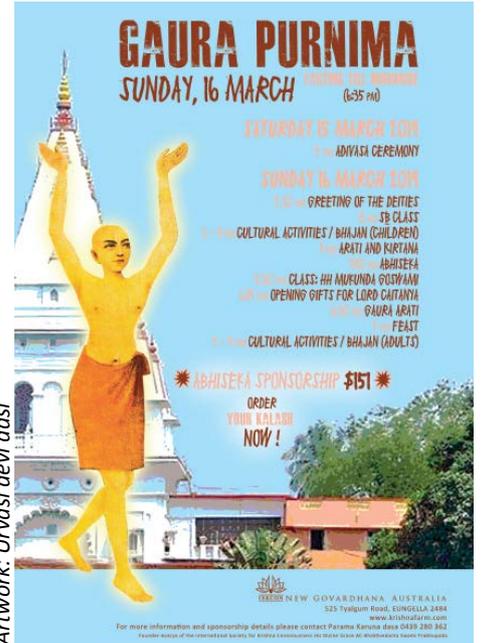
The festival organisers of New Govardhana are happy to announce a special Gaura Purnima *Abhisheka* Sponsorship event.

ONLY 40 Kalashes  
\$151.00 EACH  
Contact Parama Karuna dasa  
0439 280 362

## KALASH Only \$151.00

All *abhisheka* donors will receive:

- A *kalash* of *abhisheka amrita*
- A *pavitra* offered to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai
- *Mahaprasad* sweet offered to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai
- Sponsors will receive intimate *darshan* of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai whilst the Lords are being bathed by contents of the sponsor's *kalash*
- Sponsors will then be presented with the *caranamrta* filled *kalash* to take home



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

HG Jayasila dasa and HG Vimala devi dasi will run a seminar on relationships Saturday, 29 March 2014. Another seminar will run Monday, 31 March and Tuesday, 1 April 2014 at the *gurukula* for teachers.

Image: www.kbingimages.com



## HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Image: www.krishna.by

**Wednesdays 10.30 am**  
Byron Bay *harinama* 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  
[folkkrishna.com/program.htm](http://folkkrishna.com/program.htm)  
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549



Image: www.kbingimages.com

HG Madhava dasa will be visiting New Govardhana and will lead a *maha kirtana* at the temple Sunday, 30 March 2014.

Visit [www.krishnafarm.com](http://www.krishnafarm.com) or the temple Facebook page [www.facebook.com/iskconnewgovardhana](http://www.facebook.com/iskconnewgovardhana) as more details become available.

## MARCH CALENDAR

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

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 2 Su  | Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji – Disappearance<br>Sri Rasikananda – Disappearance        |
| 5 We  | Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura – Appearance  |
| 12 We | Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Amalaki vrata Ekadasi                       |
| 13 Th | Dvadasi Break fast 6.45 am – 10.52 am<br>Sri Madhavendra Puri – Disappearance          |
| 16 Su | <b>Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast till moonrise today)</b> |
| 17 Mo | Festival of Jagannatha Misra   |
| 24 Mo | Sri Srivasa Pandita – Appearance   |
| 27 Th | Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Papamocani Ekadasi                          |
| 28 Fr | Dvadasi Break fast 6.53 am – 10.52 am<br>Sri Govinda Ghosh – Disappearance             |