

April 2014



THE CONCH

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



RAMA NAVAMI
Full Moon Rising

CHANCE ENCOUNTER
Where Worlds Collide

MENTORSHIP ARRIVES
Women Leading the Way

SCHOOL HONORS DEVOTEE
Benowa Primary hears Holy Name



Gold Coin donations
help keep the Conch in print

Painting by Arun S Nair

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALA GOSS + UPCOMING EVENTS

RAMA NAVAMI

By *Ambika devi dasi*

Wednesday, 9 April 2014 is the auspicious appearance day of Sri Rama, an incarnation of Vishnu, Who protected the sages from the demons, killed the greatest demon, Ravana, and reigned as an ideal king over His loving citizens of Ayodhya.



Photo: www.biharinfozone.in

Previously, unable to have children, His father, Dasharatha, performed a sacrifice for progeny. Simultaneously, the demigods were seeking the help of Lord Vishnu to rid them of the wicked and powerful Ravana, who was creating havoc due to boons. Agreeing to assist the demigods, He took His birth as Rama, along with three devoted brothers, also expansions of Lord Vishnu. His loving mother was Kaushalya.

At 16 years of age, Vishvamitra, the great sage, taught him how to use all the weapons of the demigods and presided over His marriage to Sita, peerless in beauty and not born of a mother's womb.



Photo: www.diwaliwallpapers.com

Though His planned installation as Prince Regent was thwarted by treachery, He happily proceeded to the forest for 14 years of banishment along with Sita and His brother

Lakshmana, where he protected many saints and sages by despatching to the abode of Yamaraja demons who took pleasure in harassing them.

After Ravana kidnapped Sita, Lord Rama made an alliance with the race of powerful monkeys who had sprung from combinations of the demigods and monkeys. In order to cross to Lanka for fighting the demons, He enabled rocks gathered by them to float, creating a bridge for the army to cross.

At Sri Lanka, an epic battle took place in which Rama killed Ravana and saved Sita.

His triumphant return to Ayodhya was celebrated with lamps lit along His return path.

His ideal rule is celebrated to this day due to His transcendental qualities, His fairness in dealings and reciprocal love with His citizens. *Jaya Sri Rama!*



Holy Name Retreat

Friday 9, Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 May 2014



BLESSED AGAIN

By *Damodara Pandit dasa*

The groves of New Govardhana will again be blessed by the association of Bhurijana dasa and his wife, Jagattarini devi dasi, for the upcoming Holy Name Retreat on 9 – 11 May 2014.

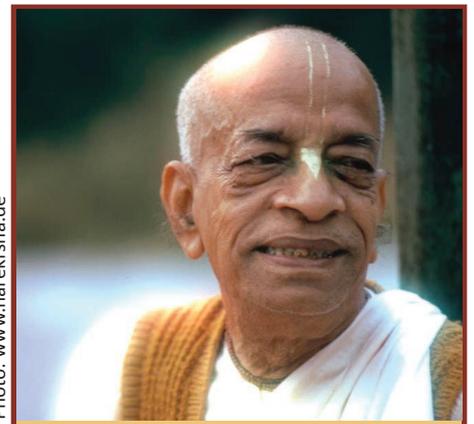
Bhurijana and Jagattarini hold retreats and give enlightening classes and he is a published author.

Bhurijana has written several books, including *The Art of Teaching*, *Surrender Unto Me* (a study of the *Bhagavad-gita*), *Studying Srimad Bhagavatam*, *My Glorious Master* (a memoir of his time with Srila Prabhupada), *Unveiling His Lotus Feet* (a study of the first four cantos of Srimad Bhagavatam), and *Japa: Nine Keys from the Siksastaka to Improve Your Japa*. He is in the process of writing two more volumes of his Bhagavatam study, which will cover cantos 5 through 9 and 11 and 12.

Sign up for the retreat at www.holynameretreat.com



Photo: www.harekrnsna.de



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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

There are so many historical incidences in the life of Ramachandra, and we should remember, because if we remember why we are observing today fasting for Ramachandra... There were many kings like Ramachandra. Because the kings were trained in that way. Maharaja Yudhishtira was also as good as Ramachandra, and Maharaja Parikshit was as good. There were many such kings. But we are not concerned because He was a king. He is the King of all kings, *Paramesvara*. Because He is God, therefore we are observing today.

Ramadi-murtishu kala-niyamena tishthan [Bs. 5.39]. So He is not original form of God. The original form of God is Krishna, and Krishna expands Himself in various other forms. *Advaitam acyutam anadim ananta-rupam* [Bs. 5.33]. *Ananta-rupam* means millions and millions. The Manu is also incarnation of Krishna. So in one day of Brahma there are fourteen Manus. So Brahma lives for one hundred years. Just see how many incarnation of Manus are there even for one Brahma, and there are innumerable Brahmas also.

So, as stated in the Srimad-Bhagavatam, that nobody can count how many incarnations are there, but some of the chief incarnations are mentioned, and Lord Ramachandra is one of them. So Lord Ramachandra, He killed Ravana and He installed his brother. So Ramachandra's life, God's activities, pastimes, if we hear, that means we are associating with Ramachandra. There is no difference between His form, His name, His pastimes, and Himself. He's absolute.

Reference: www.iskcondesiretree.net

Excerpt from a lecture in Hawaii, 27 March 1969

GEORGE HARRISON GARDEN OPENS

From Back to Godhead Jan/Feb 2014

On receiving the news of George's death (2001), the devotees at Bhaktivedanta Manor, which George had bought for ISKCON in 1973, felt the importance of honoring George's contributions to Srila Prabhupada's movement over many years.

To his memory, they immediately dedicated a part of the Manor garden, a sunken dell that George particularly liked. Mukunda Goswami, George's old and dear friend, planted the first tree in the George Harrison Memorial Garden, a weeping atlas cedar.

George's widow, Olivia, chose the plants, selecting ones that conformed to George's taste. Through eight art pieces, the garden displays lyrics by George (highlighted in this article [in BTG]) that encapsulate the progressive steps on the path of devotion. Olivia opened the garden and dedicated it to George's memory in May 2013, during the 40th anniversary of Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Photo: Bhaktivedanta Manor



George Harrison's widow, Olivia, offers flowers in memory of her late husband. George formed a close relationship with the Krishna Consciousness movement. He produced audio recordings and helped publish the Krishna Book.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER

By Kishori devi dasi

In Brisbane, Katja Beck (aged 20) waited two hours for her usual bus with increasing anxiety. Checking the internet via her phone, she discovered the bus route was no longer operational. She hastily caught a bus to the city and then ran to jump on the second bus that would take her home. The doors closed as she was about to enter and the bus drove off.

Fuming, she sat down to wait for the next bus and it was then that Mandakini devi dasi sat down next to her. A conversation ensued.

Katja explained that she came from Germany and was in Australia as a nanny. Being a keen animal lover, she had been a vegan for years. Hearing about Mandakini's lifestyle and her connection to a farm, she excitedly looked up New Govardhana on her phone and decided she wanted to go there as soon as possible.

The two new friends parted company but remained in touch.

Several weeks later Katja arrived in Murwillumbah to stay overnight with Mandakini before moving to the WWOOFer village.

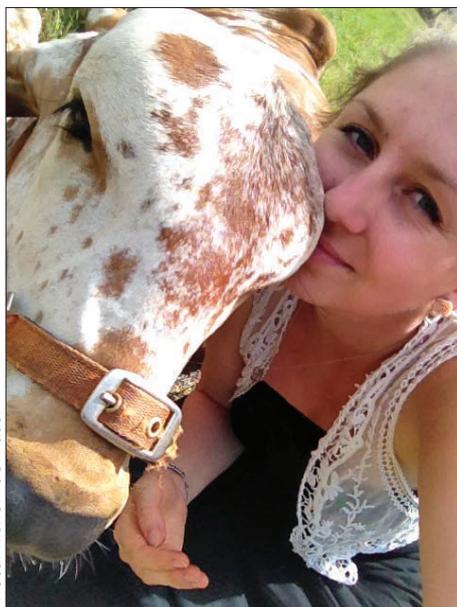


Photo: Kishori devi dasi

Katja Beck with New Govardhana's youngest bull calf Aja.

Quickly taking up the process of reading and chanting, Katja spent four weeks gardening, milking, feeding the calves and grooming the horses.

She had tears in her eyes and goose bumps as she shook her head at the miracle that had brought her to New Govardhana, where she felt completely at home.

She admitted she had never fitted in anywhere and lacked confidence. In Germany her parents were also very happy as they considered Hare Krishnas to be good people. They thanked Mandakini for helping their daughter.

Katja is intent on returning next year for three months.

Holy Name Retreat

Friday 9, Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 May 2014



HG Bhurijana dasa

HG Jagatrani devi dasi

KRISHNA VILLAGE AT THE FARMERS MARKET NO NEED FOR SPEED

By **Henrike Schreer**

It's autumn, and the Krishna Village gardens are full of fruit and veggies; organic produce, grown right here at New Govardhana by our Krishna Village team. After some setbacks due to heat and lack of rain in the spring and summer, we are now blessed to be able to supply Radha Govardhanadari with the beginnings of what looks to be an abundant crop.

Photography: Henrike Schreer



Elin and Laura at the Murwillumbah Farmers Market displaying organic produce from New Govardhana.

At the moment we are harvesting silverbeet, sweet potatoes, guavas, eggplant, tomatoes, zucchini, rocket, all sorts of herbs and soon, huge amounts of pumpkin and kale. Krishna provides! A big thank you is due to the people who have made this happen by guiding our team, namely Markandeya dasa, Parambrahma dasa, Ranadir dasa, Daniel, Aakelas and Elin.



New Govardhana organic produce.

With the surplus, we have decided to run a permanent stall at the Murwillumbah Farmers Market. We will be at the Murwillumbah Showgrounds every Wednesday from 7.00 am to 11.00 am.

In addition, the team has been on a health and de-tox mission. After

seeing the great health benefits in our own lives, we are now taking things to the next level. We have ordered bottles, printed labels and are now offering 'Jeeva Juices' every day of the week. Jeeva Juices are freshly squeezed and blended with certified organic greens such as kale and sweet potato leaves, straight from Krishna's garden.

For more information contact Elin or Henrike at the Krishna Village reception or alternatively www.woofing@krishnafarm.net



Cherry tomatoes grown at New Govardhana.

by **Urvashi 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.

Recently there have been a number of incidents where speed played a part in near misses and cars being forced off the road by speeding, on-coming traffic.

Everyone is kindly requested to slow down.

DRIVING MORE THAN 30KM
AT NEW GOVARDHANA =
THE MODE OF PASSION



TENNIS ANYONE?

By **Parama Karuna dasa**

The men's table tennis club has permission to use the *gurukula* hall and table tennis facilities. At present we have one table, but if interest grows, we can arrange the purchase of another to increase the fun.

Aravinda dasa has a great deal of expertise. Playing him can either demoralise you or vastly improve your game. He commented recently, "your game has improved". Thank you Aravinda!

While we play for fun and recreation, I have noticed I feel an affinity with table tennis. There are certain skills and effort in the game which, when shared in 'friendly' competition, enhances and transforms that skill into personal pleasure, regardless of who wins.

Of course, devotee association makes any activity more enjoyable.

If you would like to participate, see Aravinda or myself at the Sunday Feast, or ring me on 0439 280 362. We are aiming to play on Mondays

around 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm, however we are flexible.

If the ladies would like to form a group and play, they can see the school management and complete the required forms.

If you can count to 21 and want to enjoy the zen of the little bat and ball, step up and play.

Photo: Parvati devi dasi



Parama Karuna (L) and Aravinda (R) play table tennis at the Gurukula Hall.

MENTORSHIP ARRIVES!

By Mandakini devi dasi and Padma devi dasi

We currently have a number of *brahmacharinis* at New Govardhana, all of whom are eager to learn about devotional life. In order to give them individual mentoring Padma devi dasi has decided to inaugurate a Brahmacharini Mentorship Program. This program is designed to connect individual *brahmacharinis* with an individual senior *mataji* for personal guidance. The program will benefit New Govardhana *brahmacharinis* and *bhaktines* in a number of ways.



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Padma with her mentee Bhaktine Jue enjoying the morning sun in the temple gardens.

Within the program, a mentor will respond to personal and philosophical questions asked by her mentee (mentee = one who is mentored). The mentor will also help to clarify the mentee's options in her devotional life and if requested, will help the mentee to make realistic, pragmatic and healthy decisions about her personal life. The mentor will also act as a confidante for the mentee and develop a meaningful and lasting friendship. 🙏

BENOWA CHANTS WITH HEART

By Mandakini devi dasi

1,000 young students, together with parents and teachers, chanted the Hare Krishna mantra with much enthusiasm when my husband and I visited Benowa Primary School, Queensland. The occasion was Harmony Day, which the multicultural school celebrates every year on 21 March. Children from more

HH BIR KRISHNA GOSWAMI

By Kisori devi dasi

His Holiness Bir Krishna Maharaja, a disciple of Srila Prabhupada, is an ISKCON initiating guru and travels extensively. He began reading Srila Prabhupada's books while at university and joined ISKCON in 1971. In 1972, he began traveling throughout the USA distributing

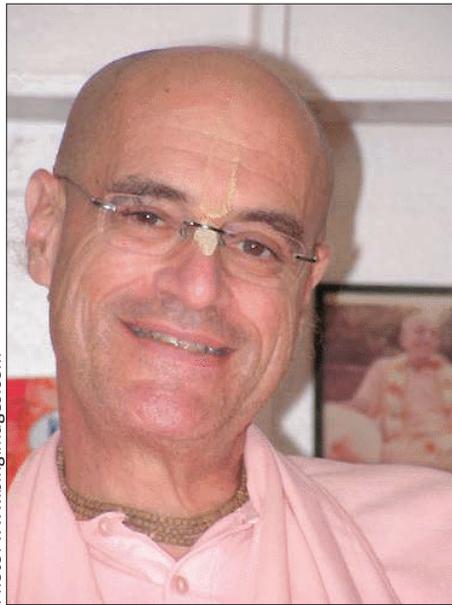


Photo: www.bingimages.com

His Holiness Bir Krishna Goswami.

books and lecturing at educational institutions. In 1978, he accepted the renounced order of life and in 1982, he helped construct and open a temple in North Carolina.

Bir Krishna Maharaja became a member of the GBC in 1995 and he travels regularly to Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and India. When not traveling, he spends most of his time at Govardhana, India, where he feels at home. His main service currently is to inspire people to become and remain engaged in Krishna Consciousness.

He is jovial, easily approachable and a vastly erudite person with a genuine humility that is clearly evident.

He will be visiting New Govardhana from 22 - 24 April 2014. Programs include morning classes at the temple at 7.30 am on 23 and 24 April, as well as a seminar titled 'Stop Killing the Devotees!' at 5.00 pm in the Gurukula Hall on 24 April. 🙏

Reference: bkgoswami.com



Teachers, parents and students hear the Holy Name at Benowa Primary. Mandakini pictured left.

than 20 different countries attend the school.

A congregational member of The Gold Coast Hare Krishna Centre, Ashmita Singh, was responsible for arranging a speaker for the opening address. She has a son at the school and is also on the Benowa Multicultural Committee.

In the introductory talk, I gave the example of a rainbow with its varying colours, all emanating from the one source. Parents expressed appreciation on hearing that God is known by many names and loves all His parts and parcels.

Sarah Howes from New Zealand commented that the presentation moved her to tears as she witnessed the children listening so intently.

The school offers religious study every Friday with Buddhism and Baha'i already being popular electives.

Benowa Primary is offering opportunities to teach Krishna Consciousness on a regular basis. 🙏



Photography: Aravinda dasa

Mandakini devi dasi with an award and gift from the Benowa Primary School.

THE RUSSIANS ARE BACK

By Anjali DeJager

Visnujana dasa, Shyamamrta Vitarani devi dasi, Nika, and Balarama have been traveling back and forth from Australia and Russia for over a year on a tourist visa. They have now obtained a student visa and are able to stay on New Govardhana for up to two years and eight months.

Visnujana dasa will be studying at the SAE Institute in Byron Bay. Nika (year 9), and Balarama (year 8) have settled back into the *gurukula* high school program, and are planning to be a part of the holy pilgrimage to Mayapur this year. They are also serving Mukunda Goswami. 🙏

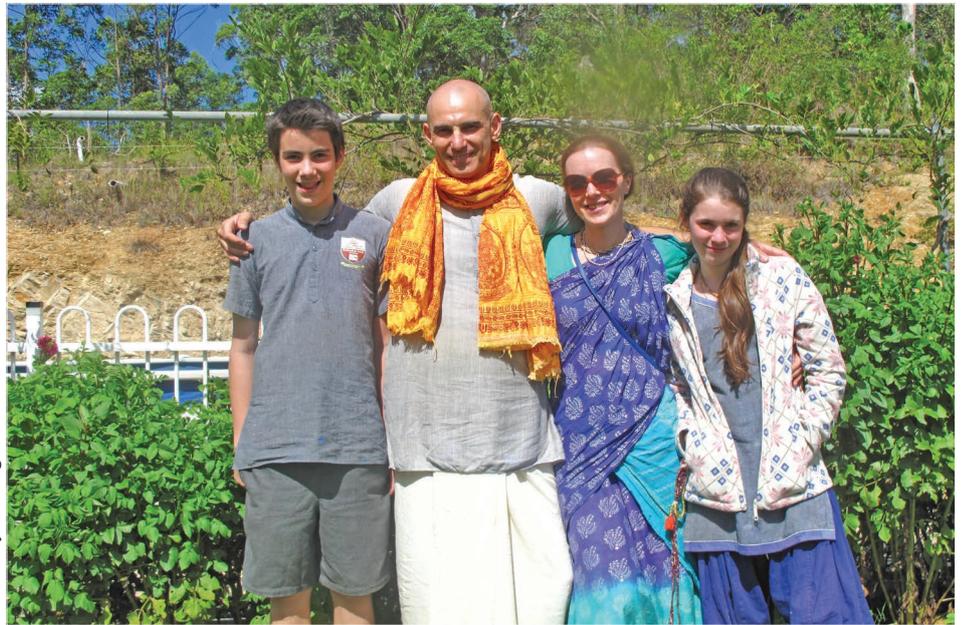


Photo: Anjali DeJager

L. to R. Balarama, Visnujana dasa, Shyamamrta Vitarani devi dasi and Nika.

GOSHALA GOSS

By Urvasi devi dasi

March was a month of more arrivals and departures from the New Govardhana herd.

One of our older bullocks, Nandi, passed away just before Gaura Purnima. He was a gentle soul, who, although suffering from arthritis, remained healthy and active right up until he had a fall and could no longer stand. Venu Gopal dasa and Urvasi devi dasi tried to help him stand again with the help of Ray Everess and his excavator. Unfortunately they were not successful, so he was offered food and water and the Holy Name.

Our newest arrival is Kamalini (pictured right). She was born to one of the heifers, Anjani. It was an unplanned birth, as sometimes happens, due to the determination of bovines despite fences and other obstacles. Kamalini was born with a slightly deformed front leg, but this doesn't seem to be slowing her down. Her young mother is very protective and affectionate. Kamalini has been sponsored by Kamalini Martin.

On alternate Tuesdays, senior school students from the Gurukula have been taking an elective class in cow *seva*. Venu Gopal now has six students who are learning different aspects of cow protection.

Recently, three *Gir* calves have been visiting the temple grounds. Radhika, Chintamani and Aja are being trained to walk on leads, follow voice



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Anjani and her young calf Kamalini.



Photo: Trevor Gore

Gir calves at the recent Gaura Purnima festival were popular with the children, seen here feeding and petting them.

commands and become comfortable around crowds of people.

There are many service opportunities at the *goshalla* and you are invited to contact either Venu Gopal or Urvasi to find out how you can become involved. 🙏



Photo: Venugopal dasa



Photo: Venugopal dasa

(Left) Gurukula students take two Gir bullocks to the Oxley River as part of their cow *seva* elective, and (Above) learn how to care for the cows by grooming them. Here Kalindi and Kamalini remove ticks from youngest Gir calf Aja.

SNAPSHOTS



Photo: Trevor Gore

Sri Sri Gaura Nitai in Their new outfit for Gaura Purnima 2014



Photo: Trevor Gore

Bhakta Ariel leads the kirtana during the recent Gaura Purnima festival. The organisers of the event were happy with the turn-out and guests commented on what a wonderful festival it was.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Gita Govinda devi dasi (right) trains a volunteer to work Bala who is seen above moving a large log in a recent clean-up at the goshalla.



Photo: Phalguna dasa

Recently, the Wiggles visited the Cardamom Pod at Broadbeach. Owner, Phalguna dasa said, "They loved the restaurant and the food and were really friendly. Wiggles from left to right: Emma, Lachlan, Simon and Anthony.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Conch is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 300 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to 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.



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

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rama Navami

Wednesday, 9 April 2014

4.00 - 5.00 pm *Bhajan*s

5.00 pm The Land of Lord Rama: talk by HH Mukunda Goswami

5.30 - 6.30 pm Cultural Events

- Senior students Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula *bhajan*s

- Fancy dress competition

- Rama Lila Musical-Drama with Venu Gopal dasa & Damodara Pandit dasa

6.30 pm Gaura Arati

7.00 pm Feast

Sponsor Rama Navami

Feast – \$651

Flowers – \$251

Contact: Damodara Pandit dasa on 0415 190 313

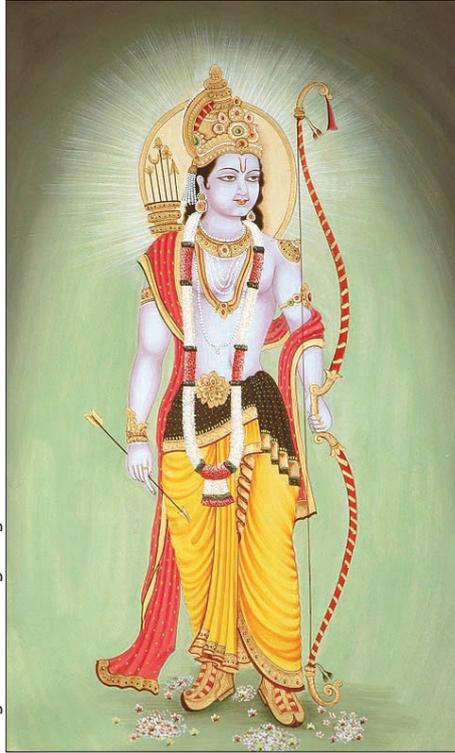


Image: www.kbingimages.com

Founder Acaraya of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

His Holiness Bir Krishna Maharaj

Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th April 2014

7:30 am- His Holiness Bir Krishna Goswami Maharaj will be giving Srimad Bhagavatam Class.

“Stop Killing the Devotees”

Wednesday 23rd April 5-7 pm

Gurukul Hall

Prasadam will be served afterwards
For more info please contact Krishnarupa on 0488045858

Street Address: 525 Tyalgum Road Eungella, New South Wales. Postal Address: ISKCON New Govardhana PO BOX 887 Murwillumbah, New South Wales 2484

Artwork: Gauri Barrera

HH Bir Krishna Maharaja
Wednesday, 23 and Thursday, 24 April 2014

7.30 am Srimad Bhagavatam Class

Wednesday, 23 April 2014

5.00 – 7.00 pm “Stop Killing the Devotees” at the Gurukula Hall. Prasadam will be served afterwards. For more information please contact Krishnarupa devi dasi 0488 045 858.

Holy Name Retreat

Friday 9, Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 May 2014



HG Bhurjana dasa

HG Jagatrani devi dasi

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA

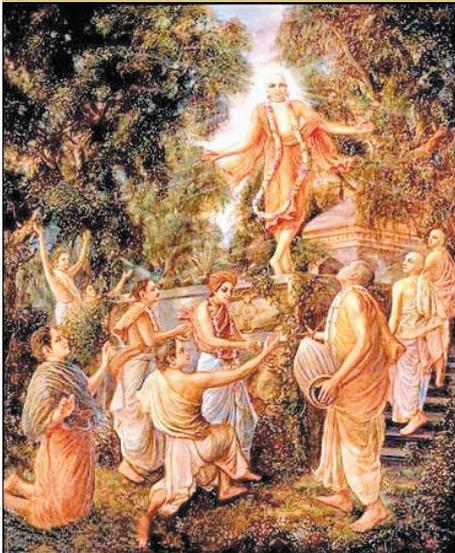


Image: www.refour-a-krishna.com

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

Sunday Mornings

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

Daylight Saving finishes on Sunday, 6 April 2014 at 3.00 am.

The Sunday Feast program held on 6 April will begin at 3.00 pm and will continue throughout winter.

APRIL CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 4 Fr | Sri Ramanujacarya – Appearance |
| 5 Sa | Last day of Daylight Saving Time |
| 9 We | Rama Navami: Appearance of Lord Sri Ramacandra (Fast today) |
| 11 Fr | Fasting for Kamada Ekadasi |
| 12 Sa | Damanakaropana Dvadasa, break fast 6.02 am – 9.52 am |
| 15 Tu | Sri Balarama Rasayatra Sri Krsna Vasanta Rasa Sri Vamsivadana Thakura – Appearance Sri Syamanandam Prabhu – Appearance Tulasi Jala Dan begins |
| 22 Tu | Sri Abhirama Thakura – Disappearance |
| 24 Th | Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura – Disappearance |
| 25 Fr | Fasting for Varuthini Ekadasi |
| 26 Sa | Dvadasa Break fast 6.09 am – 9.52 am |
| 29 Tu | Sri Gadadhara Pandita – Appearance day |