

February 2015



The Conch

www.conch.org.au

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

Newsletter

New Govardhana Community



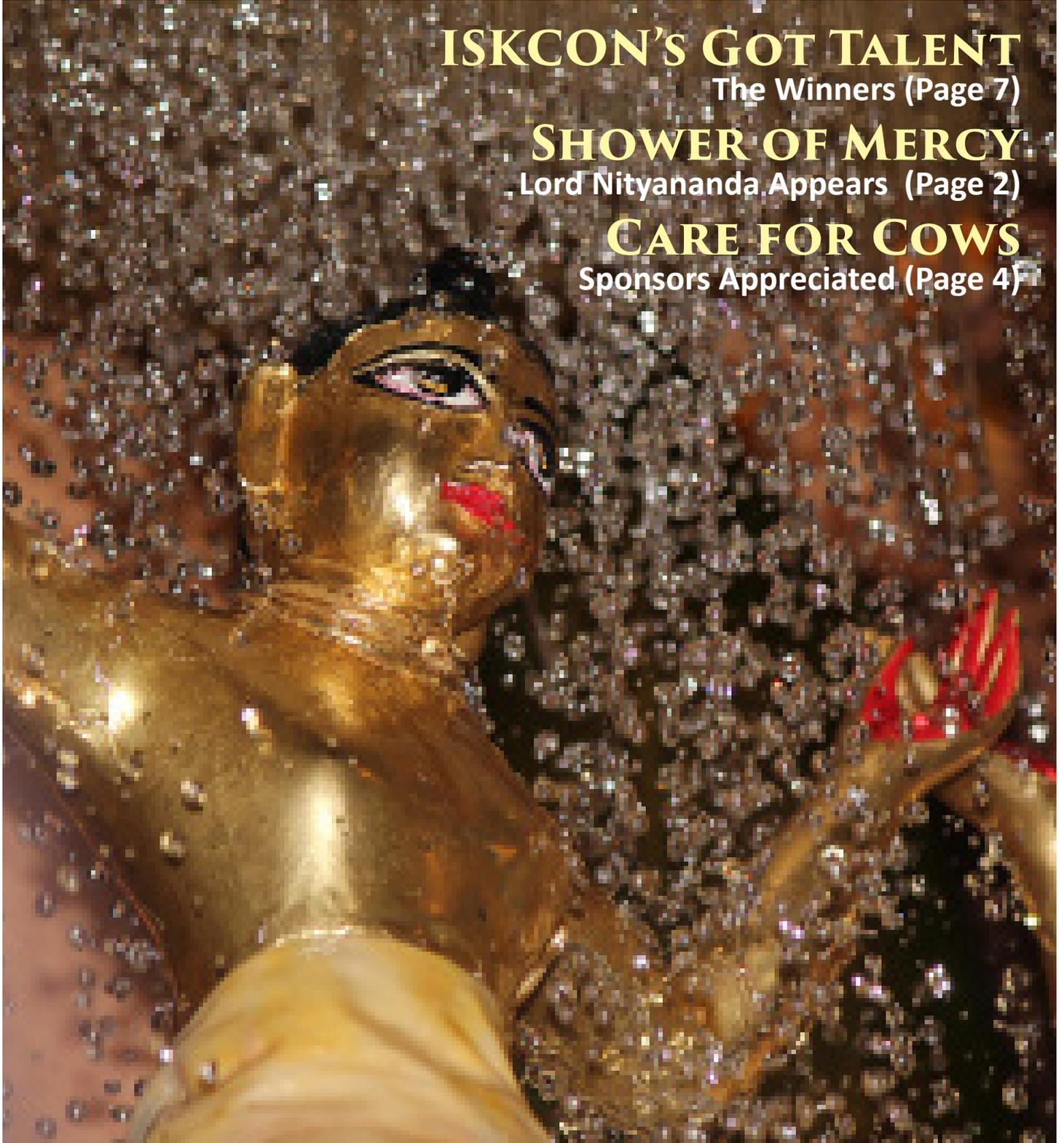
krishnafarm.com

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

ISKCON'S GOT TALENT
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Srila Prabhupada Uvaca + Kuli Catchup + Snapshots + Upoming Events

LORD NITYANANDA'S TRANSCENDENTAL APPEARANCE

By Ambika devi dasi

Though Lord Ananta Sesa is the Supreme Father of all living entities, to show His mercy on Hadai Pandita, a Brahmin and pure devotee, and the very qualified and spotless Srimati Padmavati devi, He took birth as their son. Lord Nityananda appeared in the village of Ekakakra in Radhadesa district of Bengal.

Once He had made His appearance in the Radha district, everything became auspicious. Famine, poverty and all disturbances were totally dispelled.



Lord Nityananda.

Lord Nityananda concealed His identity and played gleefully with the other children of the area. The games they played were actually manifestations of Krishna's pastimes. The parents of the young children

were amazed that beautiful Nitai knew so many transcendental pastimes.

At twelve years of age, he left Ekakakra and went to many pilgrimage places with a *brahmana* who had requested His company. He travelled all over the country in a joyful mood – fearless and carefree. He was constantly submerged in ecstatic love of Krishna.

In the western provinces, by divine arrangement, the auspicious meeting of Sri Madhavendra Puri and Lord Nityananda took place. Both went into an ecstatic trance. They passed their days and nights together, continually exhilarating each other with their insatiable thirst for Krishna conscious discussions. They were both steeped in the ambrosia of transcendental love for Krishna.

After twenty years Lord Nityananda met up with Lord Chaitanya at Sri Navadvipa Dham. Once the divine brothers joined forces, together They spread the sankirtana movement wherever They went. It was Lord Nityananda's merciful compassion on the rogues, Jagai and Madhai, that caused their delivery from sinful life to ecstatic devotion.

After Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu chose to remain at Jagannatha Puri, He sent Lord Nityananda to preach in Bengal. There He performed many wonderful pastimes, showering all He met with divine devotional bliss, without discrimination.

All glories to Lord Nityananda Balarama. The ocean of His glory is infinite and unfathomable.

He is intoxicated with ecstatic love, and is an incarnation of mercy. 🙏

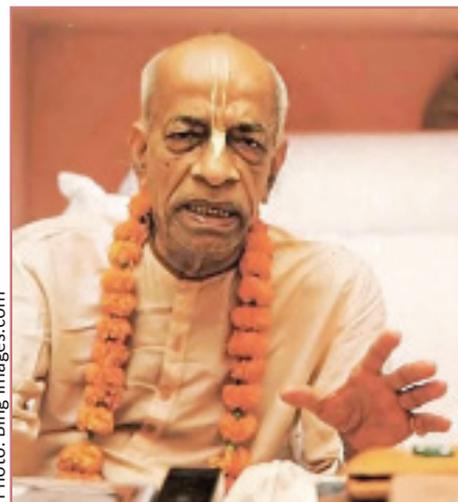


Photo: Bing Images.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

The following is an excerpt from a lecture on Sri Nityananda Appearance day at Bhuvaneshvara, 2 February 1972.

Sambandha nahi jar, brtha janma gelo tar.

So, if you have no connection with Nityananda Prabhu. Nityananda means always. *Nitya* means always, *ananda* means pleasure.

This is another meaning you can draw. So therefore, if you have no connection with Nityananda Prabhu. *Se tar* "He's simply wasting time." *Brtha* means useless. Uselessly, he's wasting time. *Sei pasu boro duracar.*

And Narottama dasa Thakura has used very strong word. "Anyone who has no connection with Nityananda Prabhu, he's a *pasu*." *Sei pasu*. He's a *pasu*, means animal. So animal, how one animal can get happiness? That is not possible. The dog, from the childhood he's searching after food, searching after food. And cannot get food. Unless a dog has got a master, he's street dog and he's always unhappy.

So better to become a dog of Nityananda Prabhu. Then we shall be happy. Instead of becoming dog of so many other people. Everyone is dog.

Everyone is searching after to serve a master. But none of them are satisfied because that is false master. You take real master, Nityananda Prabhu.

You'll be happy!

ELEVENTH: All of the subscribers to this certificate are of full age and all are members in good and regular standing of the church seeking incorporation through the filing of this certificate by admission with full membership therein in accordance with the rules and regulations thereof,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have made, subscribed, and acknowledged this certificate of incorporation this day of July, 1966.

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Caral Belkar
Rajendra K. ...

This is the last page of the original corporation papers of ISKCON signed by Srila Prabhupada and others.

In future editions of The Conch keep an eye on this section as it will feature the upcoming 50th Anniversary of ISKCON which will be officially celebrated throughout the year of 2016.

The Advisory Board of New Govardhana

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The New Govardhana Advisory Board was established on 15 June, 2011. The board was created by Ajita dasa in response to the expansion of New Govardhana and associated projects.

In the inaugural invitation letter Ajita wrote:

“As New Govardhana surges forward in efforts to serve Radha Govardhanadhari, Krishna Balarama, Gaura Nitai and Srila Prabhupada we would like to introduce a few administration progressions. These progressions are designed to accommodate expansion of the New Govardhana Project.

“The last 5 years have seen New Govardhana consolidate a vibrant community of active *vaishnavas*, a range of productive service

departments and a stable financial base. Thus we are now in a positive position to further develop Srila Prabhupada’s mission.

“Srila Prabhupada wrote in a letter to all Temple Presidents in 1972 emphasising that our real business is spiritual life and that we should not absorb ourselves in “fancy organisation”.

“... each Temple shall be independent and self-supporting. Let every Temple President work according to their own capacity to improve the Krishna Consciousness of the centre. So far the practical management is concerned, that is required, but not that we should become too much absorbed in fancy organization. Our business is spiritual life, so whatever organization needs to be done, the Presidents may handle and take advice and assistance from their GBC representative. In this way let the society’s work go on and everyone increase their service at their own creative rate.’ ”

“To achieve this I would very much appreciate your input with the various projects on New Govardhana. You are all dedicated servants of Krishna and I am quite confident that you can all bring something positive to the table to add and expand the current and future projects of this community”.

Since the inception the Advisory Board has met regularly and has discussed and provided direction on dozens of pressing issues. The current members of the Advisory Board are, Alalanatha dasa, Venugopal dasa, Vasusrestha dasa, Ajita dasa, Nrsimha Kavaca dasa, Krishna Kirtan dasa, Padma devi dasi, Maha Mantra dasa, Bhushaya dasa, Vinoda Bihari dasa and Damodara Pandit dasa.

Members of the New Govardhana Community with an issue for discussion may contact Damodara Pandit dasa via email at: secretary@krishnafarm.net 🐟

Interview with Nirantara Dasa

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Conch: How did you first hear about Krishna consciousness?

Nirantara dasa: In 1972 I received a small booklet entitled, *The Teachings of Prahlada Maharaja* by Srila Prabhupada.

I read it from front to back and I then knew Prabhupada was my guru. In April 1973 I first went to the temple and by July I had moved in.

In April 1974 I was initiated by letter by Srila Prabhupada, but then in September 1975 I was given *brahmana* initiation personally by Srila Prabhupada in Vrindavana.

C: You are well known for early cover tapes

N: Yes, in the 1980’s I recorded a number of Krishna conscious versions of popular songs at my home. Those tapes ended up all over the world. But that was just a bit of fun.

C: Can you tell us about your preaching activities.

N: Well I began preaching in Vancouver in 1980 and then I moved



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Nirantara dasa.

to Los Angeles with my wife. I would often sing at the Ratha-yatra festivals. In 1999 I was invited to Panama for the first time. This began a whole new life for me as a travelling preacher. Then in 2005 I was invited to Chile and my guitar preaching really started taking off.

C: Can you tell us something people don't know about you?

N: Well I am very fortunate because my wife works as legal secretary and she supports my preaching lifestyle.

She says that her gift to Prabhupada is her husband.

C: And how do you like Australia?

N: I love it. It’s paradise. And ISKCON Australia is like ISKCON in the 1970’s – full of freshness, love and enthusiasm. I am praying I can come back again year after year.

That is my prayer. 🐟



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Nirantara dasa and the Hare Krishna Supergroup chant at a recent Sunday feast program.

Front cover:

Photograph of Lord Nityananda’s appearance day abhisheka at New Govardhana last year, was taken by Urvasi devi dasi.

Kuli Catch-Up - Rohini Robson

By Mandakini devi dasi

Q. For how long did you go to the Gurukula at New Govardhana?

A. Four years. I started when I was five years old and left at age nine.

Q. How was your experience there?

A. It was a fun time and I particularly relished the close community spirit. My teacher, Mother Premavati, was strict, but so nice. She had a very big impact on my life and I felt sad when it was time to move on.

I still volunteer to help at the Gurukula when I can, so that I can be near to her.

Q. What did you enjoy most at school?

A. My biggest love was sports, especially when I used to win most of the races. I also enjoyed bush walks and learning about plants and



Photo: Mahesvari devi dasi

Rohini Robson.

animals. After school hours, I relished bike-riding around the farm with the other kids.

Q. You went to Murwillumbah Primary for two years after leaving Gurukula. What was that like?

A. Strange, as I was not at all used to life outside, but it was good once I got used to it. The meat-eating grossed me out though. The good thing was I could talk about Krishna and nobody teased me or treated me differently. My friends would sometimes come out to the farm for the Sunday feast.

Q. Where did you go to school after that?

A. Wollumbin High. I left when I was 14 to finish my HSC at TAFE. After finishing my studies in 2014, I took up my present position as a junior assistant at Kadamba Hair Studio.

Q. What are your long-term goals?

A. I am aspiring to go to university, to study for the degree of Bachelor of Sport and Sciences, so that I can become a dietician. Besides looking forward to buying a car when I get my P plates in February, my other desire is to re-visit India, especially for the *Kartika* season. 🙏

GOSHALLA GOSS - Cow Sponsorship

By Urvasi devi dasi

Last month one of our sponsors came to visit "his cow", along with his family. After their brief visit he asked if he could sponsor another two cows. Of course I said yes. He then said that he would like to sponsor all of our cows. Knowing the number of cows, bulls, and calves we have here at New Govardhana, I didn't take his comments too seriously.

As we have 80 or so cows here at New Govardhana, I thought that he couldn't possibly sponsor them all.

As he and his family were about to leave, I said to him, "by the way, we have 80 cows here". He thought for a moment, and with a very earnest, yet sweet smile, he said, "yes, I want to sponsor them all". Cow protection, ki jaya!

The Cow Protection program would like to thank the following sponsors for the consistent support they have shown:

Neeraj Kukreja and Family
Sandeep Sharma

The Blackley family
The Durr family
Govardhana Seva dasa and Ekadasi devi dasi
The Johnson family
Rajvidya
Xing Zhang family
Edward Lavery
Louise Mothay
Haohang Zheng
Brenda Foran
Vijesh Khanna
Syamsundara and the Lashand family
Pradip Gorasia
Pooja Rani
Krishna Bosch
Vidya Whabi
Nimai Pandit dasa
Yogita Gupta
Nikunja Madhavi dasi
Kalindi
Andrew Meiklejohn
Peter Symes
Karen Hudson

If we have missed any sponsors, please let us know so we can give you credit in future editions of the Conch.

While the devotees involved in the cow sponsorship program are very appreciative of the support of the above, we would be most grateful for additional sponsors. 🙏



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Urvasi devi dasi with young Gir calf, Radhika. There are many calves available to sponsor.

Wanted: Writers

By The Conch Editorial Board

The Conch is always pleased to receive articles of interest to include in each edition. Articles should be confined to 250-300 words and should not be controversial. The articles could be subject to some editing and conformity to the style of the Conch.

We would also appreciate snippets of information from devotees, such as births, marriages, items of interest, amusing anecdotes, etc., which would be placed in the "Did you know?" column.

Any photos submitted should have a suggested caption and a photo credit. All articles and photos should be in by the 12th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition. 🙏

A Day in the Life of Gita Govinda

By Mandakini devi dasi

Gita Govinda's (GG) day begins at 3.00 am, when she rises to waken her home deities, Krishna Balarama, Nitai Gaura Hari, Nrsimhadeva, Prahlad and Srila Prabhupada.

After chanting her rounds and taking breakfast, GG sets off to feed and groom her two horses.

Most times, travelling on horseback, she performs a head count of the cows and bullocks, while carefully checking boundary fences. This can take a couple of hours, especially if the fences are in need of repair. This essential service safeguards the cows from the neighboring stock.

Once the water troughs are inspected, it's time to take care of the general maintenance of the area. Fireweed, thistles and Lantana are systematically removed, sometimes



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Gita Govinda devi dasi.

requiring the heavy-duty service of her horse Big Bala, with his chain and collar.

In order to supply fresh water to all the paddocks, GG recently underwent the arduous task of cleaning out the header tank at the *gurukula*. Subsequently, water flows down to the eight paddocks, which are now safe and animal-friendly. Old tins, barbed wire and car bodies have been removed.

The former *goshalla* has been revamped with yards, plus a bigger than normal cattle crush (a facility for handling large animals safely). This

is a great asset for GG in her service. When the animals require personal attention and are too large for the crush, (some of them over 600kg) GG, with assistance from Venu Gopal dasa, needs to rope them, using a cow-friendly technique, to bring them to the ground. In a day's work, GG experiences her share of cuts, bruises, broken bones and stitches.

Two days a week, GG joins up with a WWOOFer team, working on projects such as planting flowers for garlands, beautifying the WWOOFer Village entrance and developing Srila Prabhupada's Centennial Garden.

When time permits, our busy farm/cow maintenance devotee spends her evenings reading or spinning and weaving. As a fibre artist, GG creates impressive *chadars*, shawls, blankets, etc. Some items are used in the service of Srila Prabhupada and Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadari. Her other activities include felting, lead-lighting, basket-weaving and mosaics. 🐣

Sitala devi dasi

By Mandakini devi dasi

In November, New Govardhana was pleased to welcome senior devotee Sitala devi dasi. Her association was much appreciated, especially by the brahmacharinies, who took the opportunity to discuss various spiritual topics with her. She also inspired devotees in general with several informative and well-presented discourses.

Sitala lives in Mayapur with her husband, Hari Sauri dasa and their 22 year-old daughter Rasarani Priya. She is involved with Strategic Planning and Community Development projects.

Since joining ISKCON in 1970, Sitala has been actively engaged in a variety of services, especially in the area of Deity worship—organising Deity to write a book about Narottama dasa Thakura, and has given many



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Sitala devi dasi.

interesting seminars and classes on the subject of our Gaudiya *acharyas*. carving, making outfits, helping with installations and other services.

Being particularly interested in Gaudiya history, Sitala was inspired to write a book about Narottama Dasa Thakura, and has given many interesting seminars and classes on the subject of our Gaudiya *acharyas*.

For several years, she travelled and preached with Indradyumna Swami's Polish Festival tour.

Another passion Sitala embraces is the manifestation of the Holy *Dhamas* in western countries. Having lived for over 25 years in Mayapur/Vrindavana *Dhamas*, she has an acute awareness of the special potency of the *Dhamas*, and is most keen to see that mood replicated at New Govardhana and other places around the world.

On arriving here, Sitala felt very happy to see the efforts of Maha Mantra dasa to establish the pastime places of Govardhana. Says Sitala, "Srila Prabhupada wanted to re-create the environment of the Holy *Dhama* all over the world so that people could experience the spiritual dimension. If we can invoke the mood of the Govardhana-*vasis*, then it is possible for all spiritual desires of the devotees to be fulfilled right here." 🐣

Sunday school

By Indranila devi dasi

A big THANK YOU to all who participated with us during the summer holidays. We had a lot of fun learning a Bhagavad-gita verse, how to do Tulasi *puja*, applying *tilak*, crafts, games and more. We meet at

the Gurukula Hall Sundays, from 4.00 to 5.00 pm, with children aged four to ten. Children below three need to be accompanied by parents.

Fees: \$10 per child, or \$15 per family.

Please contact Kisori devi dasi on 0402 128 815 or Indranila devi dasi 0450 503 570. 🐣



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Kirsty's spiritual adventure

By Govardhana Seva dasa

In the November 2014 Conch, a photograph of former New Govardhana resident Danakeli Chintamani devi dasi (formerly Bhaktine Kirsty) receiving her first initiation in Vrindavana was published.



Photo: www.facebook.com

Danakeli Chintamani devi dasi.

Recently she was sent an email congratulating her on her initiation and this was her reply.

"Thank you so much for your kind email wishing me congratulations on first initiation. I am so fortunate and happy to have received initiation

from my spiritual master and only hope that I may serve him and the devotees nicely.

After I left the New Govardhana farm in May 2013 I went back to Sydney Govinda's ashram, my spiritual home, where I started Krishna Consciousness. I stayed there for a year in the ladies ashram working part time nursing and then serving at the preaching centre. It was a magical time, with so many young devotees with a lot of inspiration and energy. Then I was encouraged to follow my spiritual master on his 'Polish Tour' - a cultural preaching festival he organises for two months in Poland, where a lot of his disciples go to serve and associate with him. After that I came to Vrindavana to participate in the Vrindavana *kartik* Parikramas that my Gurudev also organises. A nectar reward after so much intense service on Polish tour! Anyway, all this mercy and association left me fortunate enough to take *diksa* initiation during *kartik* with some devotee friends from Sydney also there to share it.

I am at the end of my six-month spiritual sojourn and it has been quite a journey!

In two weeks I will be leaving Vrindavana and heading back to New Zealand.

My family are there so I am hoping to settle down with them for a good while, part time nursing, serving and training at the ladies ashram in Wellington and pursuing my Yoga teaching also." 🙏

Surabhi devi dasi

By Mandakini devi dasi

Last month, former New Govardhana resident, Surabhi devi dasi visited New Govardhana from her home on Macleay Island, off the coast of Queensland.

Surabhi, along with Yasoda Dhulal dasa, (another former NG resident) and his wife Laxmi, have collaborated to bring to the Island a weekly meat-free day they call, "Meatless Monday".

The devotees cook every Monday and distribute the prasadam at the local community centre. Eager participants look forward to the tasty Monday meal and often number more than one hundred. 🙏



Photo: Trevor Gore

Surabhi devi dasi leading a *harinama* in Byron Bay recently.

Jaya Krishna dasa

By Mandakini devi dasi

New Govardhana also welcomed Jaya Krishna dasa from Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK.

Jaya, whose daughter Varsha resided at New Govardhana for four months, is well known as a founder actor of the Bhaktivedanta Players, based at the Manor. The famous drama group has travelled the world, appeared on TV and even shared the limelight with Brad Pitt.

Jaya spent 20 years as a pujari and 15 years as a book and paraphernalia distributor. He now serves as a wedding priest.



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Vijaya Krishna dasa on his recent visit to New Govardhana.

With his jocular manner, Jaya endeared himself to the local community at New Govardhana and delighted audiences by producing and appearing in two plays. He was also an enthusiastic and much appreciated pujari helper on the Deity roster.

Commenting on his experience at New Govardhana, Jaya says, "The community has made me very welcome here, and I am grateful to my daughter for introducing me.

I have visited 70 ISKCON centres, and New Govardhana is definitely in the top five.

I hope I may be able to return here one day very soon". 🙏

Snapshots ...

Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



Photo: Natalie Fairbairn



First place winner at the recent New Govardhana's Got Talent night (left) Anjali DeJager and (right) second place winner Dana Keli Fairbairn. Third place went to the Jumping Armadillos (top right).

"Tweed Shire News: Local Extreme Art Duo blitz talent show. In their premiere performance in the Tweed, local art-terrorists, "The Jumping Armadillos" created a sensation of chaos. Local businessman Stephen Beaney-bhusaya said, "I'm still dazed - what day is it?" And Sydneysider Carmella Gitanjali Baynie said "I woke up the next morning in a dream - was it real?"..... Dr Ima Fraud from the Faculty of Psychosis, University of Vienna said, "JA is not art - it is like an egg beater in your brain stem - beware". (Caption by Damodara Pandit dasa)

Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



Photo: Trevor Gore



There were a lot of opportunities to chant the Holy Name during the Summer festival. (Above left) Krishna Village residents become ecstatic when the Harinama Ruci devotees arrive. Encouraging everybody to then chant and dance in procession all the way up the hill to prasadam.

Photo: Trevor Gore



(Left) Nirantara dasa leads the Wednesday Byron Bay sit-down harinama much to the delight of the devotees and the passersby.

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.



EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

Upcoming Events



Image: www.planetiskcon.com

Lord Nityananda Trayodasi Sunday, 1 February

7.00 am	Darshan
7.05 am	Gurupuja / kirtana
7.30 am	Srimad Bhagavatam Class
9:00am	Bhajanas
9:30am	Class on Lord Nityananda
10:15	Abhiseka of Lord Nityananda
11:15am	Gift opening
11:40am	Bhoga offering
12:00pm	Arati and kirtana
1:00pm	Feast



Image: www.bingimages.com

Uttamasloka Dasa Saturday, 31 January – Sunday, 1 February

“Developing Faith in the Scriptures”

Saturday, 31 January at 4.00 pm
Bhagavad-gita class at the Temple

Sunday, 1 February at 7.30 am
Srimad Bhagavatam class at the Temple

Sunday, 1 February at 4.00 pm
Bhagavad-gita class at the Temple



Image: www.bingimages.com

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura Appearance Day Monday, 9 February

7.30 am	Srimad Bhagavatam Class
10.00 am	Bhajanas and readings
11.45 am	Prasadam offered to Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati
11.50 am	Pushpanjali
12.00 pm	Gurupuja – arati and kirtana
12:30 pm	Feast

Image: www.bingimages.com



Urmila Devi Dasi Monday, 16 February – Friday, 20 February

Urmila Mataji will also be presenting
devotional seminars and will meet with
parents and children.

Further info will be posted later.

Harinama Sankirtana ki jaya



Image: www.bingimages.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
folkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549



Image: Ekadasi devi dasi

*2015 Vyasa Puja Celebration of
HH Janananda Goswami. Several
of Janananda's godbrothers and
godsisters were present, including
HH Mukunda Goswami and HH
Purushottama Maharaja who offered
tributes. Disciples and well-wishers
came from Brisbane and the Gold
Coast to join the local disciples
and friends.*

February Calendar

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

1 Sun	Nityananda Trayodasi – Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast today)
4 Wed	Sri Krsna Madhura Utsava Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura – Appearance
9 Mon	Sri Purusottama Das Thakura – Disappearance Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura – Appearance
15 Sun	Fasting for Vijaya Ekadasi
16 Mon	Dvadasi break fast 6.28 am – 10.49 am Sri Isvara Puri – Disappearance
18 Wed	Siva Ratri
20 Fri	Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji – Disappearance Sri Rasikananda – Disappearance
22 Sun	Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura – Appearance