

April 2015



# THE CONCH

[www.conch.org.au](http://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](http://krishnafarm.com)

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



SRI LA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALA GOSS + SNAPSHOTS + UPOMING EVENTS

# SITA DEVI

By Ambika devi dasi

Sita Devi's appearance on this planet was a transcendental event.

King Janaka of Mithila was one day ploughing land in order to perform a sacrifice. Unearthing a beautiful effulgent girl, he took her as his daughter and named her Sita. She was raised with great affection and given a good education. Noble and intelligent, she grew to be an ideal princess.

Sita's father, wishing her to have an extraordinary husband, decided to give her in marriage to anyone who could bend Lord Shiva's immensely strong bow, formerly gifted to him by the Lord, since it could not be bent by a mere mortal.

Travelling to Mithila with the great sage Visvamitra at that time, Lord Rama of Ayodhya grasped that mighty bow, bending it with ease. The auspicious wedding of Sita and Rama took place immediately.

Sita was an ideal chaste wife. When Rama was banished to the forest by the tricks of His stepmother, Sita insisted on accompanying Him, knowing well the huge austerities involved. His devoted brother Lakshmana also went.

One day, a beautiful golden deer appeared near Their *ashrama* and began frolicking delightfully. Desiring the lovely deer as a pet, Sita requested Rama to fetch it for Her. The deer's real identity was Maricha, a *rakshasa* magician sent to lure Rama and Lakshmana from Sita's side.

When Maricha cried for help in Rama's voice, Sita forced Lakshmana to go to His side, thus being left alone. Kidnapping Her, Ravana took beautiful Sita to his *rakshasa* kingdom of Lanka.

Joining with empowered mighty monkey forces, Sri Rama and Lakshmana fought fierce battles against the wicked *rakshasas* after crossing the ocean. Thousands were killed daily. Finally, after Ravana lost his ministers, generals, brothers and sons, he fought a mighty battle with Sri Rama and was killed.

Sita and Rama triumphantly returned to Ayodhya along with Lakshmana and devoted Hanuman. They ruled

Ayodhya for many years, loved by their citizens.

Sita spent Her last years at an *ashrama* in the forest. She bore Lord Rama's twin sons, Kush and Lava. She chose to re-enter Mother Earth when She departed this world. 🐾

## SRI JAHNAVA MATA

By Ambika devi dasi

In a dream, Suryadas Sarakhela, the King's treasurer, saw Lord Nityananda as Lord Balarama, and himself giving his two daughters, Vasudha and Jahnavi to Him in marriage.



Jahnavi Mata had a wonderful vision of Lord Gopinatha standing under this tamala tree playing His flute.

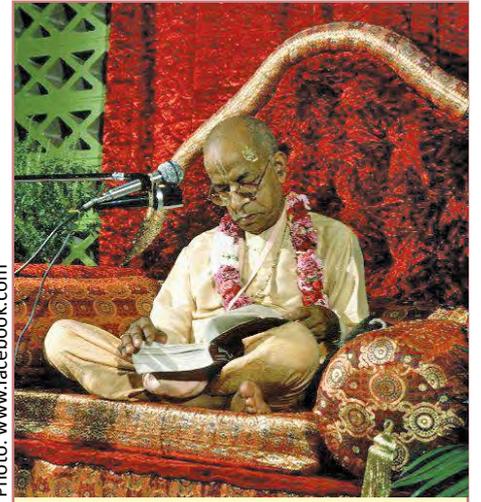
He quickly ensured that this auspicious marriage eventuated, after which Vasudha bore two children, Virabhadra and Ganga. Jahnavi Mata remained childless.

Once Lord Caitanya, Nityananda, Advaita and others had returned to the spiritual world, Jahnavi Mata wished to further inundate the land with *sankirtana*.

Prabhupada said of her: "She was the pleasure potency of Lord Nityananda. She became guru and had many disciples. Virabhadra was her disciple. She was an *acharya*, though she didn't declare it. She was controlling the whole Vaisnava community."

At the famous three-day festival of Kheturi where Lord Caitanya and Nityananda reappeared and danced, she cooked wonderful preparations for the six sets of Deities being installed.

After serving all the devotees there, she visited Vrindavana where she was welcomed by the Goswamis with great devotion. She made many pilgrimages in West Bengal, organising *sankirtana* festivals. When she returned to Vrindavana



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

### Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Sita is Lakshmi, or the goddess of fortune, but she is never to be enjoyed by any living being. She is meant for being worshiped by the living being along with her husband, Sri Ramacandra. A materialistic man like Ravana does not understand this great truth, but on the contrary he wants to snatch Sita from the custody of Rama and thus incurs great miseries. The materialists, who are after opulence and material prosperity, may take lessons from the *Ramayana* that the policy of exploiting the nature of the Lord without acknowledging the supremacy of the Supreme Lord is the policy of Ravana. Ravana was very advanced materially, so much so that he turned his kingdom, Lanka, into pure gold, or full material wealth. But because he did not recognize the supremacy of Lord Ramacandra and defied Him by stealing His wife, Sita, Ravana was killed, and all his opulence and power were destroyed.

Srimad-Bhagavatam  
Canto 2, Chapter 7, Text 23  
Purport by His Divine Grace A.C.  
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

and Radhakund, she heard *Nectar of Devotion* from Rupa Goswami. She preached love of Radha Krishna and instructed all she met to chant the Holy Names. 🐾

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

By Mukunda Goswami

The first-known outdoor *kirtana* in the West was held in Tompkins Square Park in New York City on 9 October 1966. Led by Srila Prabhupada, an unlikely assemblage was there: middle-aged Ukrainian immigrants, young hippies and curious onlookers of many descriptions.

They “took part” by playing musical instruments and singing or muttering the 16-word *maha-mantra*: “Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Hare Hare.” Some clapped and sang, but most just watched transfixed, as Srila Prabhupada, chanting and playing a small African drum, sat under an elm tree. When the chant concluded, he stood up.

“He began to speak to them,” writes Satsvarupa dasa Goswami, “The



Photo: <http://btg.krishna.com>

(Above) Srila Prabhupada chanting at Tompkins Square Park. (Below) “The Tree”



Photo: Devaprastha dasa

chanting of Hare Krishna, he said, had been introduced five hundred years ago in West Bengal by Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Hare means ‘O energy of the Lord,’ Krishna is the Lord, and Rama is also a name of the Supreme Lord, meaning ‘the highest pleasure.’

“He stood erect. The tree behind him seemed perfectly placed, and the sunshine dappled leafy shadows against the thick trunk. Behind him, through the grove of trees, was the steeple of St. Brigid’s. On his right was a middle-aged woman wearing a dress and hairdo that had been out of style in the United States for twenty-five years. On his left was a bold looking hippie girl in tight denims and beside her a young black man in a black sweater, his arms folded across his chest.

“The chanting of Hare Krishna is on the spiritual platform, and it is the best process for reviving our eternal, blissful consciousness. He invited everyone to attend the meetings at 26 Second Avenue and concluded his brief speech by saying, ‘Thank you very much. Please chant with us.’ “

## IN FOCUS: THE NEW TEMPLE MANAGER

By Jhulan Yatra

Vasustrestha dasa’s first meaningful encounter with ISKCON devotees in Amsterdam, 1974, resulted in his joining for a short period, before returning to Melbourne. Soon after, Srila Prabhupada came to open the prestigious new temple in Albert Park. At one *darshana*, his room filled with guests and devotees, Srila Prabhupada suddenly resonated “Why are these devotees not living in the temple?” Thinking these words to be directed at him, Vasu wholeheartedly complied and moved into the temple, receiving initiation in April, 1976.

Describing his eight years of *brahmacari* life, involving festivals, book distribution and temple management as “marvellous”, Vasu fondly recalls that, for a short time, he served chota Gaura Nitai at the White House, in 1979, where he was simultaneously the sole *pujari* and cook for about 25 devotees.



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Dhanistha devi dasi and Vasustrestha dasa outside their home at New Govardhana.

In 2000, Ajita dasa invited Vasu and his family (Dhanistha devi dasi and their three sons) back to the White House. After three years, business and family affairs had them depart, but their desire was always to return.

Meanwhile, in Coffs Harbour, Dhanistha obtained her degree in nursing, and the house emptied out as the boys finished secondary education.

In 2014, a cottage became available on the farm. Perceiving it as Krishna’s arrangement, they moved back to

once again become directly involved in the service of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

Dhanistha serves the Deities on the altar, also working part-time as a registered nurse at Tweed Hospital, while Vasu has become temple manager. Part of this service is liaising with residents of the Krishna Village (WWOOFers). “They’re all very nice people whose good fortune is that, among other things, they have the opportunity to learn about Krishna and our Vaishnava customs here. Naturally some go deeper into the philosophy and lifestyle and that is joyful to see.”

Vasu and Dhanistha are grateful for their acceptance into the community and are excited about the future. “

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

There is lots of service that needs to be done at New Govardhana and if you would like to volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated.

As Vasustrestha says, “Any service, great or small, is welcome.”

Contact Vasu at: 0411 467 336

## EASY CLEAN

By Mandakini devi dasi

The recent upgrade in the dishwashing area has provided a much-needed facility. Resident devotees, WWOOFers and the many guests visiting New Govardhana now have a modern and more convenient space for washing their plates.

Besides a newly erected roof, the area has been enlarged. Half a dozen new sinks and storage cupboards have also been added. Filtered drinking water is now on tap, enabling visitors



Photos: Mandakini devi dasi

(Above left) Maha Mantra, Narottama (above right) Visvesvara and Rasala at work.

to quench their thirst and refill water bottles.

Thanks to the efforts of our building and maintenance crew, Maha Mantra dasa and Narottama dasa, the work was finished within three weeks.



Once the plumbing was completed, father and son house-painting team, Visvesvara dasa and Rasala dasa from Govinda Dham added the finishing touches. 🐟

## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Mandakini devi dasi

This year, the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula has continued its expansion into Years 9 and 10.

Years 9 and 10 will now include core subjects, English, Maths, History, Social Sciences and other electives.

Syama Sakhi devi dasi teaches English and Vegetarian Cooking. Vinod Bihari dasa teaches Commerce for students interested in business and finance. Mohini Murti devi dasi teaches Digital Media and Design.

Madhavendra Puri dasa teaches Science and Scripture, including *Bhagavad-gita*. Phalgun Krsna dasa teaches Maths, and Pesala devi dasi



Photos: Keli Kadambana devi dasi

(L to R) Surabhi, Lalita, Vrinda and Khelana.

teaches History, Social Sciences, Music and Art.

Indumati devi dasi instructs the students in Sport and Movement, Vilasa devi dasi teaches Advanced Art and Nandaraja dasa, Music.

The NSW Board of Studies has fully endorsed the Gurukula curriculum and its various electives. This includes *Bhagavad-gita* study as a subject for

Year 10. *Bhagavad-gita* studies will be listed in the transcription of students' NSW Year 10 Record of Achievement, which is a legal government document. This is a first for Australia and possibly the world.

The mood in the Gurukula High School is certainly highly positive, and students and teachers are confident of a progressive year. 🐟



(L to R) Abhay, Hari-Bhajan and Nimai.

## INNOVATIONS

By Satya devi dasi

Tweed Shire Council has now approved plans for the two-storey seminar hall; *prasadam* pavilion; shop; and commercial grade kitchen. Construction is slated to begin before the end of 2015.

According to current plans, these new buildings will occupy an area close to where the present *prasadam* hall is, but will be significantly larger.

At a later stage, while the new temple is being built, the Deities will be housed in the seminar hall.

The first stage of building will be clearing the land and removing the ornamental pond to enable pipes and

cables to be laid. Building is expected to take eight months and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for Janmastami 2016.

Security cameras are up and working well although there are still four cameras to install. The farm is an extensive area to cover and a more elaborate system, which will include a boom-gate, is planned for the future. Hopefully, when the house opposite the farm is sold, a camera covering the entrance sign can be installed that will end vandalism.

Vijaya, the head gardener, is growing bananas for the farm. So far 400 Cavendish have been planted, with a further 200 planned for the site near the *brahmachari ashrama*. The new bananas are growing on both sides of the road that runs above the

*brahmachari ashrama*. Ajita dasa has been looking at buying a commercial dehydrating unit to dry the banana crop, as it is difficult to store bananas.

The lower garden is expected to yield approximately 600kg of sweet potato and 250kg of ginger.

Congratulations to the gardeners! 🐟



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

A security camera at New Govardhana.

# VISITORS DELIGHTED

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Recently, two visitors from Bhaktivedanta Manor, Nilesch and Bharti, stayed at New Govardhana for a few weeks. When they left in mid-March they sent the following email:



Photo Supplied by: Lilesh

Nilesch and Bharti on their recent visit to New Govardhana from the UK.

Hare Krishna Prabhus,

Please accept my [sic] humble obeisances. All glories to Shri Prabhupada.

Just to let you know that my husband, Nilesch, and I have had the most amazing time here at New Govardhana. The darshan is so beautiful every day, the devotees are very friendly and the accommodations is very comfortable.

New Govardhana is so beautiful and Shri Shri Radha Govardhandhari has unlimited mercy upon Their devotees.

Your servants, Nilesch and Bharti

And on Saturday, 7 March the farm hosted a group from the SAQ Senior's Society. Two days after their visit the following email was received:

Good Morning Reverend Padma, Ganga, Jhulan and Larissa,

We, (the members of the SAQ Seniors' Society) would like to extend our most sincere thanks to you for allowing us to visit the Ashram, and also for the hospitality you have shown us on last Saturday.

Yours respectfully,

Francis & Lekha Suraweera and Sam Fernando 🙏



## GOVINDAS BURLEIGH HEADS SIX YEARS ON

By Ajita dasa

Govindas will mark its sixth anniversary on 29 April 2015.

The small restaurant was started with innovative systems and concepts plus the efforts of a handful of enthusiastic devotees from New Govardhana. They kindly donated their time, ideas and intelligence to create this modest *prasadam* outlet. They hoped to please Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada and serve the Australian and international public with tasty and affordable food.

Despite its fair share of obstacles over the years, Govindas opened in James Street where previously there were no vegetarian restaurants. It instantly attracted customers.

Six years later Govindas successfully continues, despite ever increasing competition.

Govindas restaurant provides funds for New Govardhana, including taking better care of the cows.

The restaurant's cuisine, atmosphere and staff, are all instrumental in the public appreciation of the Hare Krishna movement. Testimony to this is publicised by customers on Trip Advisor, the popular website that had more than 280 million monthly visitors in 2012.

Trip Advisor has had many visits to Govindas and below are two of the latest reviews.

*The fact that no matter what time you go there it's a vibing and busy hub - don't let the line fool you ( I don't line up for much, if anything) it goes through quick and happy friendly staff handle the fast pace with ease - good to see people who love their job especially under a swift pace - this is reflected in the food - sit and enjoy*

*- pick up a take away to eat on the beach or take home to supplement your dinner ...*

*I'm not really into vegetarian meals but I make an exception for Govindas because their food is so yummy. I'm also a huge fan of their desserts, especially their berry cheesecake! Prices are also really good; the atmosphere is nice although the seating can be very crowded. Definitely worth it, however!* 🙏



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Govindas Restaurant at James Street, Burleigh Heads.



## DAYLIGHT SAVING

On Saturday 4 April, after the evening Gaura Arati and after the Deities have been put to rest, all clocks and other timepieces must be put **back** one hour.

From Sunday 5 April, all Winter Sunday feast programmes will start at 3.00 pm, except when otherwise informed.



ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA

# 50/50 Go Seva Sponsorships

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISKCON



PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR NEW GOVARDHANA'S COW PROTECTION PROGRAM BY BECOMING INVOLVED IN OUR ISKCON 50TH ANNIVERSARY GO SEVA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US TO OFFER A NEW GOSHALA TO SRI SRI KRISHNA BALARAMA'S COWS AT NEW GOVARDHANA.

FOR ONLY 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$50 YOU WILL BE GIVEN A FULL 2 YEAR COW SPONSORSHIP.

THIS OFFER IS GOOD THROUGH TO THE 11 JULY 2016.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY CONTACTING URVASI DEVI DASI ON 0403 977 777

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND HELP US GET SPONSORS FOR ALL OF OUR COWS.

THE NAMES OF THE FIRST 50 SPONSORS WILL BE INCLUDED ON A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE THAT WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE NEW GOSHALA.

THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE!  
THE ONLY QUALIFICATION IS YOUR LOVE FOR MOTHER COW.

THANK YOU



Attractive table settings are a feature of the Vedic weddings organised by Jyestha.

Jyestha quickly became aware that the natural setting of the farm would be ideal for conducting Vedic weddings. She requested permission to put her previous experience to good use. This was approved and she has started planning and marketing. There are now four weddings booked for the upcoming season.

There is a link on the website ([krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com)) and information is also being distributed through the New Govardhana database.

In the meantime, prospective clients wishing to be married in a Vedic ceremony at New Govardhana are asked to contact Jyestha by email at [jyestha.kks@gmail.com](mailto:jyestha.kks@gmail.com) or by telephoning 0457 060 151.

Ceremonies can be Vedic or Western and each ceremony is legal by law. 

## HOSTING VEDIC WEDDINGS

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Jyestha devi dasi joined the Melbourne temple in 2010 and spent the next four years being trained in temple services. She received first initiation from His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami In 2013.

Her services included restaurant work, reception duties, members services and assisting in organising the Vedic wedding ceremonies conducted by the Melbourne temple.

Jyestha became interested in all the procedures involved in conducting Vedic weddings including decorating the *mandap*, meetings and invoicing clients, organising cooks and teams for the catering and decoration.

She was placed in charge by Aniruddha dasa, the president of the Melbourne temple. She was responsible for organising more than 150 wedding ceremonies and *yajna* functions.



Photos Supplied by: Jyestha devi dasi

Tying the knot.

In 2014 Jyestha came to New Govardhana to attend the Holy Name Retreat and Tree of Life presentation, and was so impressed that she decided to make the move to New Govardhana that year.



Vedic wedding ceremonies are colourful and vibrant events. Above is Dhanesvari devi dasi with her wedding cake.

# SNAPSHOTS



Photo: Trevor Gore

The Divine Couple Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

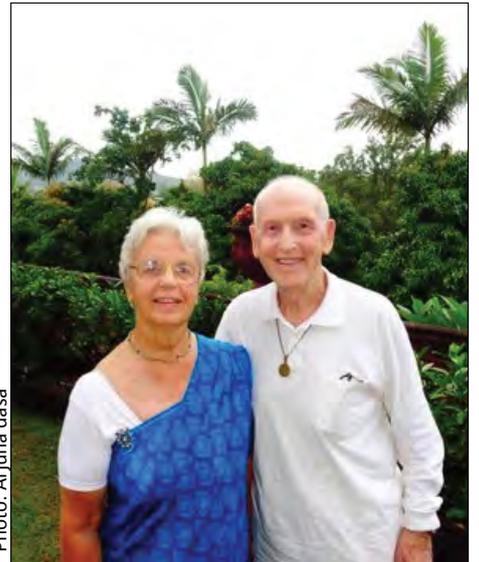


Photo: Arjuna dasa

The Dynamic Duo, Govardhana Seva dasa and Ekadasi devi dasi celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Thursday, 26 March 2015.



Photos: Urvasi devi dasi



**Signs of the Times:** New signs were recently installed at New Govardhana. Local company, Vintage Signcraft, has been most helpful in producing National Park style signage to help guests and visitors navigate their way around the property.

## 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](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:

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](mailto:newgovconch@gmail.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## HH Janananda Goswami

### Wednesday, 1 April

- 7.30 am Srimad Bhagavatam class
- 11.00 am Meet at the Krishna Village for a tour
- 12 noon Kirtana – Class – Kirtana
- 1.15 pm Prasadam

### Thursday, 2 April

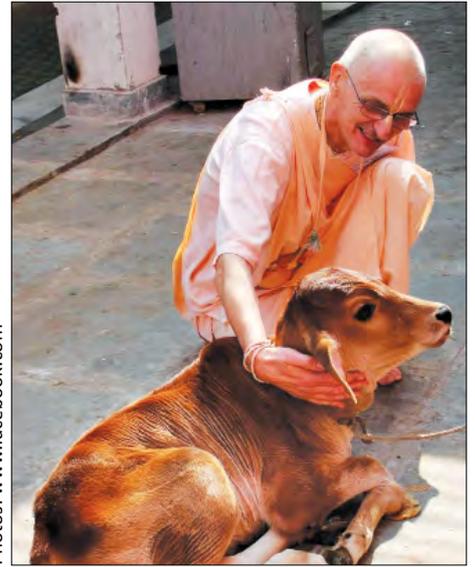
- 7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam class
- 4.00 pm Meet at Frangella Park for Harinama  
(Turn off Byangum Road into Frangella Drive) followed by a class, then pizza

### Friday, 3 April

- 7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam class
- 4.00 pm Meet at the Govardhana Trail at the New Govardhana Community Harinama with His Holiness Janananda Goswami and a circumambulation of the Govardhana Trail with its creator Mahamantra dasa. This Parikrama walk replicates the locations of the pastimes of Krishna at Govardhana Hill, Vrindavana, India
- 6.30 pm Gaura Arati
- 7.00 pm Prasadam

### Saturday, 4 April

- 7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam class



Photos: www.facebook.com

HH Janananda Goswami.

### Events Disclaimer

While all care is taken to ensure accuracy of event dates, it is the responsibility of the provider of information to make sure dates are correct. The Conch does not accept responsibility for errors.

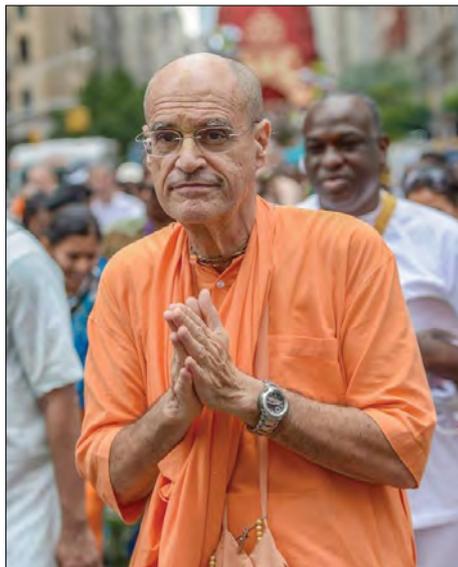


Photo: www.iskcon-photos.com

HH Bir Krishna Goswami.

## HH Bir Krishna Goswami

### Tuesday, 7 April

### Wednesday, 8 April

### Thursday, 9 April

- 7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam class

Check the New Govardhana website for any home programs.

[www.krishnafarm.com](http://www.krishnafarm.com)

### Guru Disciple Course

1 - 4 April 2015

See [www.krishnafarm.com](http://www.krishnafarm.com) for more information

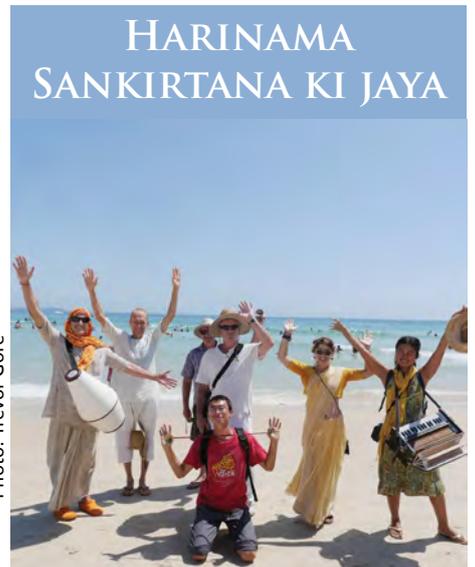


Photo: Trevor Gore

### 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  
Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021

# APRIL CALENDAR

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

- 4 Sat Sri Vamsivadana Thakura – Appearance  
Sri Syamananda Prabhu – Appearance  
Last day of Daylight Saving Time
- 5 Sun Clocks go back one hour at 2.00 am. Sunday Programs will commence at 3.00 pm. (Pujaris see page 5)
- 11 Sat Sri Abhirama Thakur – Disappearance
- 14 Tue Srila Vrindavana Dasa Thakur – Disappearance
- 15 Wed Fasting for Varuthini Ekadasi
- 16 Thurs Dvadasi break fast 6.04 am to 9.52 am
- 19 Sun Sri Gadhadhara Pandita – Appearance
- 27 Mon Srimati Sita Devi (Consort of Lord Rama) – Appearance  
Sri Madhu Pandita – Disappearance  
Srimati Jahnava – Appearance
- 30 Thu Fasting for Mohini Ekadasi
- [1 May Fri Dvadasi break fast 6.12 am to 8.40 am]