

May 2015



THE CONCH

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“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthruse 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

LORD NARASIMHADEVA
Pillar of Success

GARUDA FLIES IN
Devotees Welcome

RADHA RAMANA
Miraculous Manifestation

JUBILEE GARDENS
Celebrating ISKCON's 50th



SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALA GOSS + SNAPSHOTS + UPCOMING EVENTS



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

LORD NARASIMHA

By Kisori devi dasi

Hiranyakasipu, a great demon, was ready to kill his own son Prahlada. However, the Supreme Personality of Godhead appeared in front of the demon as Narasimha, half man and half lion and killed Hiranyakasipu.

Hiranyakasipu was very envious of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and could not tolerate Prahlada's glorification of the Lord. He also could not tolerate that Prahlada was a devotee of his enemy, the Supreme Lord; therefore he decided to kill his son.

Hiranyakasipu asked Prahlada whether his God existed in the columns of the palace. Prahlada immediately stated that the Lord was present everywhere and therefore He was certainly present in the columns. Hiranyakasipu then forcefully struck a pillar with his fist and the Lord emerged from it in his wonderful incarnation as Narasimha, half lion and half man.

Hiranyakasipu immediately understood that this extraordinarily

wonderful form of the Lord was meant for his death and prepared to fight. By appearing in this unusual form, the Lord fulfilled the conditions of Lord Brahma's boon to Hiranyakasipu not to be killed by any animal or man, in the day or in the night, not inside or outside, nor by any weapon.

The Lord performed His pastimes by fighting with the demon for some time, and at dusk the Lord killed Hiranyakasipu on His lap with His razor-sharp nails.

The entire universe was relieved from the demoniac king Hiranyakasipu's rule. Lord Narasimha was then glorified by all the demigods and other celestial beings.

Lord Narasimha appeared to prove that a devotee is never vanquished as stated in the *Bhagavad-gita*. To a demon, His form is very fearsome but a devotee feels very reassured by this same form.

Devotees pray to Lord Narasimha for protection and for the removal of demoniac qualities from within the heart. 🙏

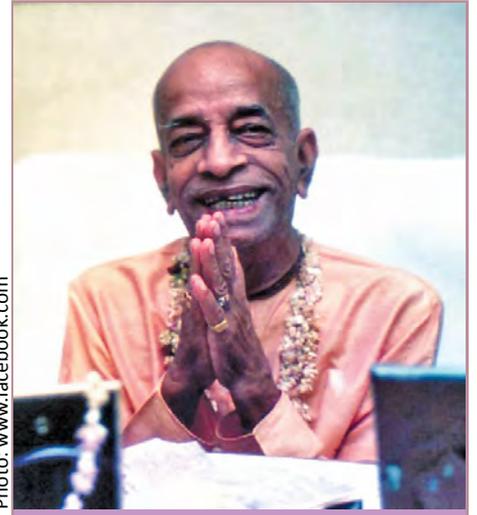


Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srīla Prabhupada Uvaca

So, *narayana-parah sarve na kutascana bibhyati* [SB 6.17.28]. This is the sign of pure devotee. Others, they are afraid of the fierceful appearance of Nrsimhadeva, but Prahlada Maharaja says that "I am not afraid". He was a child of five years old. So, others were very, very afraid, even could not approach the Lord to pacify Him, and Prahlada Maharaja was not afraid.

So there is a description of different features of the body of Nrsimhadeva, description of the face, the ear, the mane and the nails, everything, very, very fearful. But the nails, the significant word is here—*ari-bhit nakhagrat*. *Ari-bhit*. *Ari* means enemy, and these nails are meant for piercing the chest of the enemy, not of the devotee. *Ari-bhit nakhagrat*. Everything is fierceful to the enemy, to the demons, but to the devotees they're all beautiful. They are pleasing. That is the difference between the Personality of Godhead and material personality ... God is all-good. Even God appears in such fierceful attitude, it is [still] beautiful to the devotees.

Srimad-Bhagavatam
Lecture, SB 7.9.15 Mayapur,
22 February 1976

Front Cover Image: www.facebook.com.
See page 3 "Radha Ramana Appears."

RADHA RAMANA APPEARS

Compiled by Damodara Pandit dasa

Radha Ramana is one of the main Deities of Krishna in Vrindavana. This month on the full moon (Vaisakha Purnima) day marks the 273rd anniversary of His appearance. This account of His manifestation is how it is retold by long-time Vrindavana resident, Dina Bhandu dasa.

Radha Ramana is one of the most important and beloved Deities of Vrindavana, who was served originally by Gopala Bhatta Goswami, one of the famous Six Goswamis of Vrindavana.

When Gopala Bhatta heard of the disappearance of Lord Caitanya, he felt intense separation from the Lord, having associated with Him only in his childhood. One night Lord Caitanya appeared in a dream and told him, "If you want my *darshana*, make a pilgrimage to Nepal."

In Nepal, Gopala Bhatta visited the river Gandaki. After taking his bath he filled his waterpot and was surprised to see that some *Shalagrama-shilas* had entered it. Emptying his pot, he filled it again, only to find the *shilas* had re-entered his waterpot.

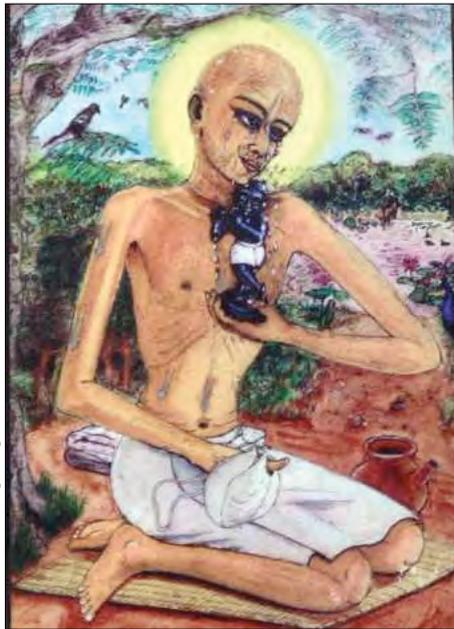


Photo: www.bingimages.com

Gopala Bhatta Goswami and the Krishna Deity manifested from a Shalagram-shila.

Again he emptied his pot, and when he filled it for a third time he found that now 12 *Shalagrama-shilas* were there. Thinking this must be the mercy of the Lord, he decided to take Them with him to Vrindavana.

After returning to Vrindavana, one day a wealthy devotee approached Gopala Bhatta Goswami with dresses and ornaments for his Deity. Gopala

Bhatta told him that as he was only worshipping a *Shalagrama-shila*, it would be better to give them to someone else who was worshipping a Deity and could use them. It happened to be Narasimha-caturdasi, and thinking deeply on this incident Gopala Bhatta remembered how Lord Narasimhadeva had manifested from a stone pillar.

He then began to pray to the Lord, "O Lord, You are very merciful and fulfil the desires of Your devotees. I wish to serve You in Your full form." In ecstasy he read the chapters of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* about Lord Narasimhadeva's pastimes, and then took rest. In the morning when he awoke, he found that one of the 12 *Shalagramas*, the *Damodara-shila*, had manifested as an exquisitely formed Deity of Krishna.

When Rupa and Sanatana Goswamis, as well as many other devotees, received news of this miraculous event, they came running to see the Lord and were amazed to see the beauty of the Deity. Radha Ramana, unlike other Deities, has very intricate features, including fingernails and even teeth. On the back portion of His body, parts of the original *Shalagram-shila*, from which He manifested Himself, can be seen. 🙏

AUSSIES HEAD UP 50TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE

By Mukunda Goswami

Producing a 64-page magazine for ISKCON's 50th anniversary has been delegated to a team "Down Under".

The production committee for this Golden Jubilee magazine includes His Holiness Mukunda Goswami;

Bhakta dasa and Bhakti devi dasi; Ramprasada dasa; Krsnarupa devi dasi (acbsp); and Damodara Pandit dasa.

The content will showcase ISKCON 50 years on and will be targeted at the interested public. The magazine will highlight Srila Prabhupada; the history and growth of ISKCON; purpose-built temples around the world; education; festivals; food; the arts; science; and interfaith initiatives – for starters. The proposed title for the magazine is *The Hare Krishnas ... 50 Years On*.

Drawing on years of experience in the realms of magazine publication, writing, events planning, communications skills and outreach expertise, the existing committee members expect their work to be informative as well as entertaining. It will be a delight to look at and read, with striking imagery and articles educating the public how ISKCON has developed into the highly acclaimed international society that it is today.

Many temples have expressed interest in purchasing the magazine, and some have already pre-ordered. Once these orders are confirmed, the print run will be finalised, but the team is optimistic that it is going to be impressive.

During the Governing Body Commission (GBC) meetings this year, Bhakta dasa, Bhakti devi dasi and Krsnarupa devi dasi presented the magazine concept. Initial reactions were extremely favourable, which was very encouraging.

For the events celebrated throughout ISKCON for the 50th Anniversary, Romapada dasa will act as the International Co-ordinator and Hema Malini will be the Chair of the event.

Anuttama dasa, last year's GBC Chairman and current ISKCON Minister of Communications, along with others, will oversee many aspects of the event, including this flagship publication. 🙏



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

A meeting of ISKCON's 50th Anniversary magazine team. L to R: Damodara Pandit dasa, His Holiness Mukunda Goswami, Ramprasada dasa and Krsnarupa devi dasi.

CATERING AT THE CAPITAL

By Mandakini devi dasi

The New Govardhana catering crew experienced another highly successful event at the National Folk Festival, Canberra, over the Easter weekend.

Headed by Krishna Gan dasa, the intrepid gang spent a total of four days travelling to Canberra and back, and another five days distributing 10,000 servings of *prasadam*.

Says Krishna Gan, "Although this service is intense with lots of hard work and long hours, it is gratifying

to visually experience changes in people's consciousness from taking *prasadam*."

Such a case was a Krishna-friendly performer at the festival, whose atheistic partner of 17 years had never eaten *prasadam*. A *Bhagavad-gita*, kept at their home, had been the focus of many a dispute. After our disbeliever came to the *prasadam* stall with his partner to sample the *kofta* balls, he underwent a dramatic change of heart. He came back several times of his accord and surprised everyone by purchasing his own personal copy of *Bhagavad-gita* ("so that I can read it whenever I want," he confided). 🐾



Photo: Krishna Gan dasa

The new look Govindas catering van travelled to Canberra recently.



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

"I have just spent the last three months in the beautiful foothills of Mount Warning with the Hare Krishnas and whether you are a WWOOFer or a devotee, a friend, an acquaintance or even just a guest for the Sunday feast, I want to say thank you for being a part of, and even making, my time in the Krishna Village the best experience I've had in life so far ..." – Meg Hardcastle

DISCIPLESHIP IN ISKCON

By Krsnarupa devi dasi (acbsp)

New Govardhana hosted the ISKCON Disciple Course from 1–4 April, facilitated by Aniruddha dasa and in part by the author of this article.

The ISKCON Disciple Course has been developed with the authority of the GBC Guru Services Committee and can only be taught by teachers registered with the ISKCON Disciple Course Secretariat.

By order of the GBC, from Janmastami 2015, initiations will only be given to devotees who have passed this course.

In Australia, at the time of writing, Aniruddha dasa and Acintya Rupa devi dasi from Melbourne and Krsnarupa devi dasi (acbsp) from New Govardhana are registered to teach this course.

The Disciple Course was developed over a two-year period under the direction of the GBC Services Committee, with the combined efforts of many leading educators in ISKCON. It is based on the teachings of Srila Prabhupada and current ISKCON law, and gives reference to the writings from the broader Gaudiya Vaisnava tradition.

Ten students attended the course. There were lively discussions, brainstorming exercises and skits using experiential learning techniques to improve their understanding of the long-standing principles of discipleship. 🐾



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Some of the ISKCON Disciple Course students with co-facilitator Krsnarupa devi dasi (far right).

PRABHUPADA'S GARDEN GETS A LIFT

By Mandakini devi dasi

A glorious transformation is unfolding down at The Krishna Eco Village – the embellishment of Srila Prabhupada's Centennial Garden. This is for the glorification of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari and to honour ISKCON's 50th Anniversary next year.

The project is facilitated by Madreya dasa and personally guided by Gita Govinda devi dasi. Bhaktine Diana and some of the Krishna Village residents are also eagerly contributing their time and energy.

A myriad of flowers has been donated by Bhakta Shannon, tuber roses from Vallabha dasa and numerous dahlia bulbs from Parvati devi dasi.

The first stage of planting is well under way. Gita Govinda is expecting a profusion of colourful blooms that will not only beautify the area, but will be used in garland-making and floral arrangements for festivals.

Gita Govinda is resolved to plant 108 shrubs and half that number has already been put in the ground.

She says, "We appreciate the enthusiasm of the volunteers and their ongoing hard work. Now we are hoping that devotees and friends may be able to donate shrubs or cuttings to further the garden development. 🙏"

WELCOME SHAUN AND FAMILY

By Mandakini devi dasi

New Govardhana welcomes Bhakta Shaun Jeffery and his new family to the area.

Shaun became a devotee in 2008 soon after he signed up for the WWOOFer programme. His natural inclination led him into undertaking regular service in the gardens of New Govardhana, where he helped care for the *gurukula* grounds, temple area and the bio-dynamic community garden.

After a phone introduction to Gandharvika devi dasi, who was living in the Philippines, Shaun decided to visit her. Subsequently he began helping with the gardening at the temple Eco Vraja Village in Laguna, 100km from Manila.

It was here that the couple became engaged to be married.

Gandharvika and her three children arrived in Australia in September this year. A formal marriage was performed at the home of priest, Govinda Caran dasa on 7 October.

Shaun and Gandharvika, together with Laksmi, 19, Krsnadasa, 17 and Nimai, 9 are presently residing in the Crystal Creek area.

While Laksmi pursues her training for high school teaching, Krsnadasa



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

L to R: Laksmi, Shaun, Krsnadasa, Gandharvika and Nimai (front).

is studying at TAFE for his HSC. Young Nimai, who was a film actor in the Philippines, is enrolled at the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula.

Busy family man Shaun cares for the temple rose garden, sells organic veggies and fruit trees and is about to undertake a course in naturopathy.

In the Philippines Gandharvika taught yoga and Bharatanatyam dancing. She has been very active in her devotional life, helping with festivals, floral arrangements and dramas and is keen to continue with those services when required. She is especially looking forward to becoming involved in Deity dressing. 🙏

GIVE
A
PLANT

Those wishing to donate plants are asked to contact

Madreya dasa
0477920032
or
Gita Govinda dasi
0427052143

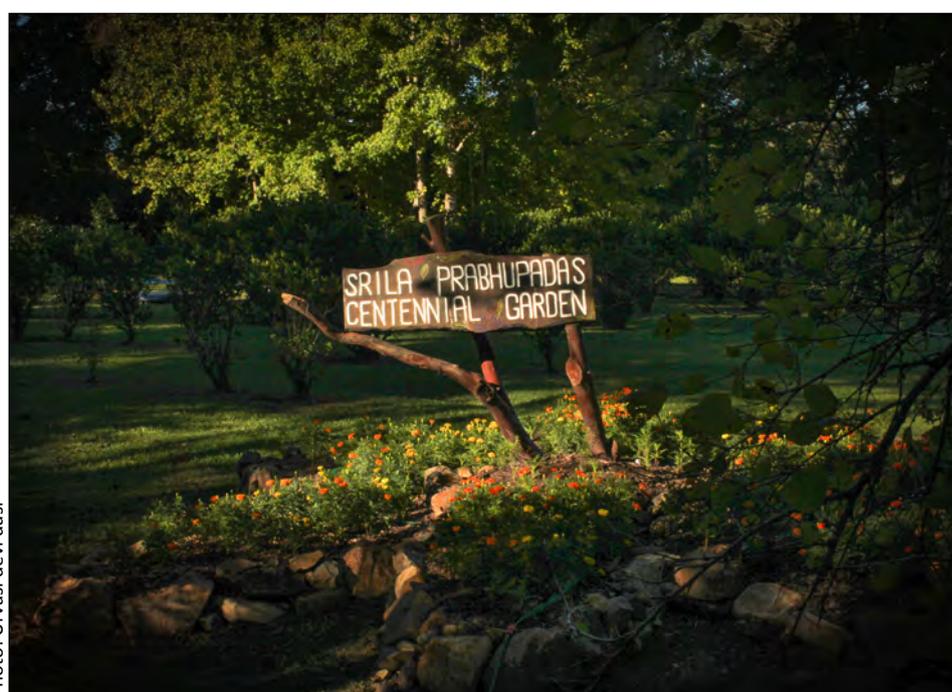


Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

SNAPSHOTS



GARUDA FLIES IN

By Govardhana Seva dasa

A *harinama*, which was to be held at Frangella Park, and a *parikrama* walk at the New Govardhana Trail with Maha Mantra dasa, had been planned for the visit of Janananda Goswami. Unfortunately Lord Indra had other ideas and the rain poured down on both days, making both events impractical.

However, the rain cleared for long enough to perform a welcoming ceremony for Lord Garuda at the site on the new Govardhana Trail. This had been a special part of the original two-hour *parikrama* walk that had been planned.

Despite the muddy, slippery and wet conditions, with plenty of 'bitey' ants and mosquitoes, the function was well attended by 50 or more people, including several from Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Krishna Village.

The ceremony began with Maha Mantra giving a very interesting talk about Lord Garuda and the significance of the installation. It was hoped that Lord Garuda's namesake, Garuda dasa, would be able to attend, but his cooking duties prevented this.

This was followed by the ceremony performed by Venugopal dasa, who was supported with *kirtana* led by His Holiness Janananda Goswami. Those attending joined in the singing with enthusiasm.

Prasadam was offered after the welcoming ceremony in the form of mouth-watering chocolate cupcakes, made and served by Dhriti Gopi devi dasi.

As soon as all the proceedings had finished, it started to rain again, and many of the people who lived off New Govardhana, beat a hasty retreat to cross the bridge, which was threatening to flood. 🐟

Above left, top to bottom:

The Garuda stambha at New Govardhana.

Maha Mantra explaining the significance of Garuda.

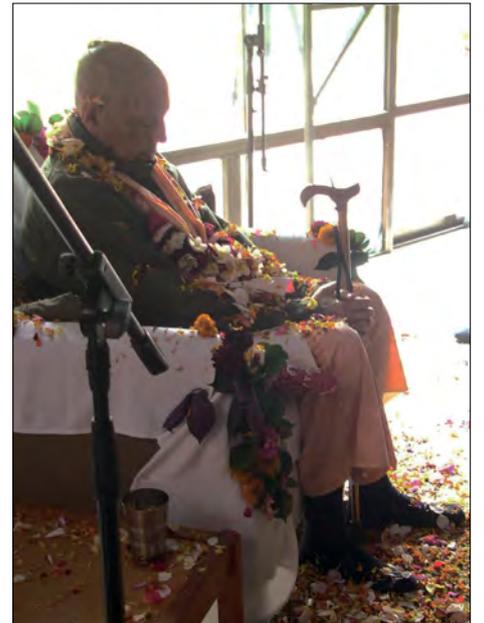
His Holiness Janananda Swami leading kirtana.

Venugopal dasa (left) enjoying prasadam served by Jhulan devi dasi.



Photos: Jyestha devi dasi

Surrender to Krishna's lotus feet is the panacea for all the ills of the material world. We should unreservedly surrender unto His lotus feet and attain the ultimate and supreme goal of human life – to go back home, back to Godhead.



His Holiness Mukunda Goswami at his recent Vyasa Puja celebration.



The New Govardhana congregation, friends and guests came together to honour Mukunda Goswami.

MEET THE PUJARI: DHRITI GOPI DEVI DASI

By Satya devi dasi

Dhriti Gopi devi dasi (then Debbie) moved into the *ashrama* at Brisbane Temple just one month after she met the devotees. She was only 16 at the time. Her first friend was a young devotee mother and Debbie would visit her and helped decorate the Deity outfits.

As a new bhaktine, she would make flower garlands and care for the paraphernalia, polishing the altar brass ornaments and setting up the Deities' jewellery to assist the *pujaris*.

Debbie soon began decorating the temple for festivals, demonstrating her creative flair, planning themes to match the new Deity outfits and enhance the spiritual atmosphere. This is a service she still does, creating a festive mood for the pleasure of



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Dhriti Gopi devi dasi bathing Deities.

Their Lordships and their devotees at New Govardhana.

After being a bhaktine for nearly seven years, Debbie moved to Perth and took initiation, receiving the name Dhriti Gopi dasi. As only first initiation was needed to serve on the altar in Perth at that time, she began dressing the Deities the next day.

Eighteen months later, Dhriti Gopi moved to Adelaide, took second initiation and trained as a *pujari*, working another 18 months in that service full time. She returned to Brisbane and was then married.

Dhriti Gopi happily served Brisbane Gaura Nitai for the next three years as she had become very attached to Them while living in the *ashrama*. She would visit New Govardhana farm often and found herself also becoming very attached to Radha Govardhanadhari.

In 2002, with a three-month-old baby daughter, the family moved to New Govardhana and she began to serve the Deities full time.

Dressing the Deities beautifully is not her only skill. Dhriti Gopi has always cooked offerings for Krishna but with the opening of Govindas Restaurant she perfected her confectionery skills, making desserts, cheesecakes and a variety of fancy *gateaus*. Now she also makes special occasion cakes for weddings and birthdays.

"I have always been very happy with serving their Lordships and decorating the temple at festivals. I love coming up with fresh ideas to enhance these special occasions," says Dhriti Gopi. 🐾

GOSHALLA GOSS

By Urvasi devi dasi

We are pleased to announce our first two sponsors in the 50/50 Go Seva Sponsorship program.

This special initiative is part of the ISKCON 50th Anniversary celebrations and all funds raised will go towards the building of a new *goshalla* at New Govardhana.

Padma devi dasi has sponsored Uddhava (pictured at right), and Ganga, Tara, Abhay and Gopal have sponsored bull calf Abhay. Uddhava is a Girolando (a Gir/Friesian cross) and Abhay is a pure Gir.

There are almost 100 cows, bullocks and calves at New Govardhana so there is plenty of opportunity for everyone to become involved.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Uddhava, Gandharvika's new calf, was recently sponsored by Padma devi dasi.

Already people are getting together and considering sponsoring a cow as a group. You too might like join with friends or family and help us build a new facility for Krishna's cows. 🐾



Photo: Daniel Stewart

Most days you will see Aja and Urvasi devi dasi walking around the farm. Aja is being trained to walk on a lead and follow voice commands. He is a sweet-natured, intelligent and co-operative student.

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

Narasimhadeva Chaturdasi
Sunday, 3 May 2015



3:00 pm Bhajanas
3:30 pm Class with Ramai Swami
4:15 pm Gurukula presentation
4:45 pm Feast
6:30 pm Sandhya arati

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 For more information please contact Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 190 333

Poster Artwork: Urvasi devi dasi

- 3.00 pm** Bhajanas
- 3.30 pm** Class with Ramai Swami
- 4.15 pm** Gurukula presentation
- 4.45 pm** Feast
- 6.30 pm** Sandhya arati

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA

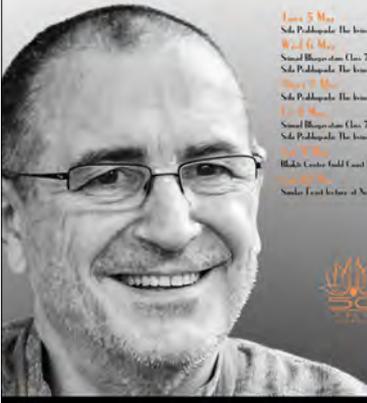


Photo: Trevor Gore

- 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
- Sunday Mornings**
 Northern NSW & Gold Coast
 Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021

His Grace Hari Sauri Prabhu
Tues, 5 - Sun, 10 May 2015

presents **Srila Prabhupada: The Living Bhagavatam**



Tues 5 May
 Srila Prabhupada: The Living Bhagavatam 5.30pm

Wed 6 May
 Srimad Bhagavatam Class 7.30am
 Srila Prabhupada: The Living Bhagavatam 5.30pm

Thurs 7 May
 Srila Prabhupada: The Living Bhagavatam 5.30pm

Fri 8 May
 Srimad Bhagavatam Class 7.30am
 Srila Prabhupada: The Living Bhagavatam 5.30pm

Sat 9 May
 Bhakti Centre Gold Coast Program

Sun 10 May
 Sunday Feast lecture at New Govardhana 3.30pm

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His Grace Hari Sauri Prabhu 5–10 May 2015

- Tues 5 May**
 Srila Prabhupada: The living Bhagavatam 5.30 pm
- Wed 6 May**
 Srimad-Bhagavatam Class 7.30am
 Srila Prabhupada: The living Bhagavatam 5.30 pm
- Thurs 7 May**
 Srila Prabhupada: The living Bhagavatam 5.30 pm
- Fri 8 May**
 Srimad-Bhagavatam Class 7.30 am
 Srila Prabhupada: The living Bhagavatam 5.30 pm
- Sat 9 May**
 Bhakti Centre Gold Coast Program
- Sun 10 May**
 Sunday Feast lecture at New Govardhana 3.30 pm

His Grace Agnideva Prabhu
24-26 May

is renowned for his melodious *Candhya Vaishnava kirtana*.

In addition to his soul-stirring vocals, he is a master mridanga and harmonium player.

Sunday Feast 24 May
 Maha Kirtana 3.00 - 9.00 pm

Monday, 25 May
 Srimad Bhagavatam Class 7.30 am
 Caitanya Caritamrta Class 5.30 pm
 followed by Gaura Arati

Tuesday, 26 May
 Srimad Bhagavatam Class 7.30 am
 Caitanya Caritamrta Class 5.30 pm
 followed by Gaura Arati



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His Grace Agnidev Prabhu 24–26 May 2015

- Sunday Feast 24 May**
 Maha Kirtana 3.00–9.00 pm
- Monday, 25 May**
 Srimad-Bhagavatam Class 7.30 am
 Caitanya Caritamrta Class 5.30 pm
 followed by Gaura Arati
- Tuesday, 26 May**
 Srimad-Bhagavatam Class 7.30 am
 Caitanya Caritamrta Class 5.30 pm
 followed by Gaura Arati

STOP PRESS!

His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami is visiting
 New Govardhana from Thursday
 28 May until Sunday 31 May
 2015. See New Govardhana's
 website for more details.

MAY CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 1 Fri Dvadasi break fast 6.12 am – 8.40 am
- 2 Sat Sri Jayananda Prabhu – Disappearance
- 3 Sun Nrsimha Caturdasi – Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva (Fast till dusk)
- 4 Mon Sri Paramesvari dasa Thakur – Disappearance
 Sri Sri Radha Ramana Devaji – Appearance
 Sri Madhavendra Puri – Appearance
 Sri Srinivasa Acarya – Appearance
- 9 Sat Sri Ramananda Raya – Disappearance
- 14 Thu Ekadasi (Suitable for fasting)
- 15 Fri Dvadasi break fast 6.20 am – 9.55 am
 Srila Vrindavana dasa Thakur – Appearance
- 28 Thu Sri Baladeva Vidyabhusana – Disappearance
 Srimati Gangamata Gosvami- Appearance
- 29 Fri Ekadasi (Suitable for fasting)
- 30 Sat Break fast 6.29 am – 9.58 am