



September 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 Communi

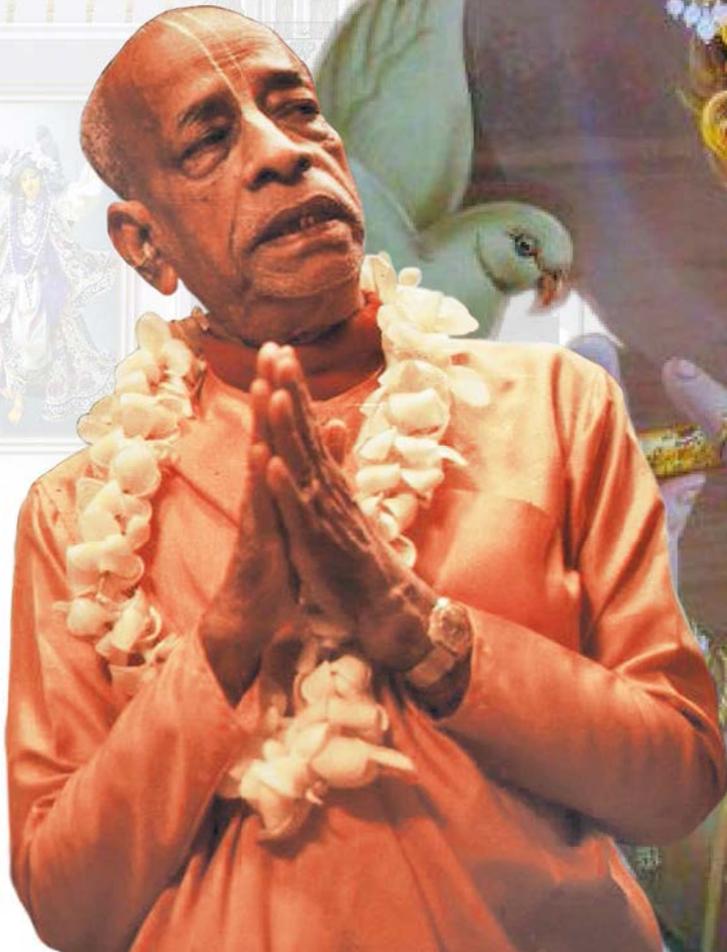


[krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com)

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

## A MONTH OF FESTIVALS

- › JANMASTAMI
- › RADHASTAMI
- › VYASAPUJA



**SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + IN FOCUS + UPCOMING EVENTS + ASHRAMA UPDATE**

# JANMASTAMI

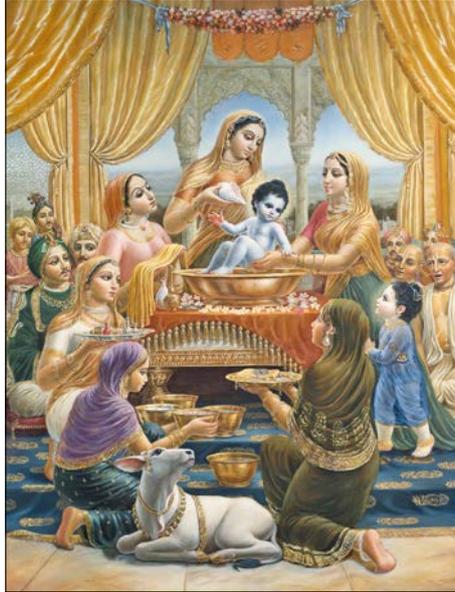
By Ambika devi dasi

At the time of Lord Krishna's Appearance, the general mass of people found peace and prosperity in worshipping the lotus feet of Lord Hari. Auspicious signs abounded everywhere.

Vasudeva and Devaki, due to past great austerities, relished parental affection for Krishna so much that He chose to appear before them at an auspicious conjunction of stars, on the eighth day of the waning moon, out of love and compassion for the conditioned souls.



cowherd men and women, enchanted by the captivating beauty of Krishna's body, presented delicious dairy products and auspicious articles for worship. Nanda Maharaja gave vast amounts in charity. The combined vibrations of the *brahmanas'* chanting, the heavenly sounds of the musical instruments and the wonderful singing to celebrate Lord Krishna's birth transformed the ether.



(Above) The advent and (above right) bathing ceremony of Lord Krishna.

The effulgent Lord Vishnu appeared before Vasudeva and Devaki, complete with shining yellow clothes and the divine symbols adorning His hands and feet. After offering prayers, fearful of cruel King Kamsa, Devaki requested Him to assume the form of an ordinary baby.

Taking this beautiful baby, Vasudeva left his prison home, unnoticed by the sleeping guards. The raging Yamuna River gave him passage, allowing him to easily reach Vrindavana. There he placed the baby by sleeping Mother Yasoda, taking up the baby girl just born of her, and returning to the prison cell in Mathura.

Stunned in amazement, Mother Yasoda gazed in wonder at her son's body, which seemed to be made of dazzling sapphires. Seeing His extraordinary beauty, she was submerged in an ocean of bliss. On seeing Him, Nanda Maharaja stood motionless, his hair erect, as tears of joy flowed from his eyes.

Soon, relatives arrived to joyfully celebrate the rites of purification performed by qualified *brahmanas* and astrologers. The decorated

The whole area resounded with the jubilant bellowing of auspicious cows. All were drowned in an ocean of joy as they blessed that wonderful boy who had just appeared in Vrindavana.

Please come and share in the celebration of this transcendental event at New Govardhana on Sunday, 6 September, starting at 3pm.

We will also be celebrating the most auspicious Appearance Day of our Founder-Acharya, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada the day after Janmastami, on 7 September, starting 10am to 1pm. 🙏

Source: Derived from Krsna Book.



Mother Yasoda and baby Krishna.

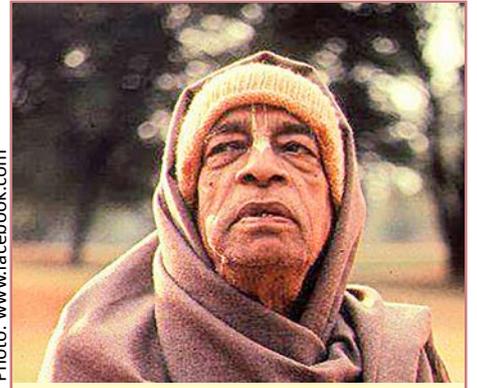


Photo: www.facebook.com

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

*Srila Prabhupada Uvaca*

In the revealed scriptures it is declared that the spiritual master should be worshipped like the Supreme Personality of Godhead and this injunction is obeyed by pure devotees of the Lord. The spiritual master is the most confidential servant of the Lord.

There is only one guru, who appears in an infinity of forms to teach you, me and all others.

“In order to learn the transcendental science, one must approach the bona fide spiritual master in disciplic succession, who is fixed in the Absolute Truth.” (*Mundaka Upanishad* 1.2.12)

Thus it has been enjoined herewith, that in order to receive that transcendental knowledge, one must approach the guru. Therefore, if the Absolute Truth is one, about which we think there is no difference of opinion, the guru cannot be two.

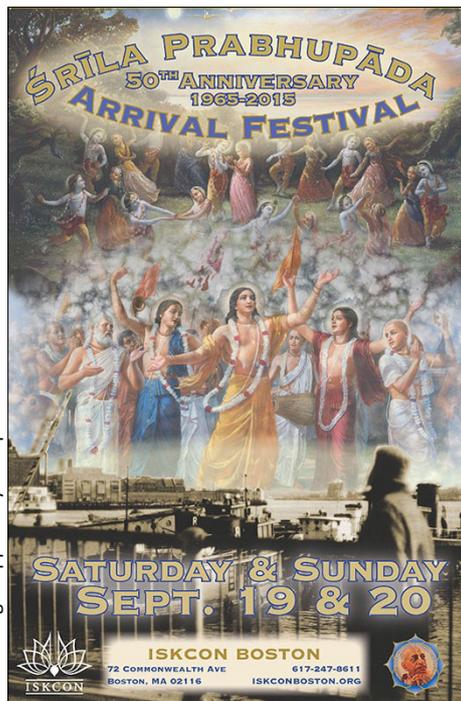
We cannot know anything of the transcendental region by our limited, perverted method of observation and experiment. But all of us can lend our eager ears for the aural reception of the transcendental sound transmitted from that region to this, through the unadulterated medium of Sri Gurudev or Sri Vyasadeva. Therefore, gentlemen, we should surrender ourselves today at the feet of the representative of Sri Vyasadeva for the elimination of all our differences bred by our unsubmitive attitude.

*This lecture by Srila Prabhupada was originally published in The Harmonist in 1936.*

# 50TH EVENTS UNDERWAY

By Mukunda Goswami

In Boston, Massachusetts, and Houston, Texas, US, celebrations commemorating ISKCON's 50<sup>th</sup> year of existence are occurring in September 2015, approximately one year before ISKCON's first incorporation in the West.



Poster image supplied by Devaprastha dasa

ISKCON Boston's festival poster.

The September Boston event, which is scheduled at historic Faneuil Hall, is observed every year. This year's gala will commemorate Srila Prabhupada's first landing in the West on 17 September 1965.

In Houston, a three-day festival is planned on 11, 12 and 13 September 2015. Its website says, "Live feeds will air as part of our special online experience allowing attendees to join the celebration virtually".

The Boston line-up of many guests includes Niranjana, Radhanatha and Giriraja Swamis. 🙏



# BLESSED DAY – THE APPEARANCE OF SRILA PRABHUPADA

By Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)

Srila Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of ISKCON, was born Abhay Charan De on 1 September 1896 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. He appeared the day after Janmastami, the celebration of Krishna's Appearance in Vrindavana, India.

Born into a family of Vaishnavas, Prabhupada described his father, Gaura Mohan De, as a pure devotee of Krishna. Although a merchant, his real business was worshipping the household Deities and serving the many *sadhus* he brought to their home. He would always request them to give their blessings to his son so that he would be a great devotee of Radharani.

Gaura Mohan was determined to train his son Abhay in Vaishnava tradition and culture, even starting *mrdanga* lessons for him at a very early age. His mother, Rajani devi, was particularly devoted to her son, Abhay Charan, and would perform many personal austerities for his protection and good health.

Srila Prabhupada's transcendental qualities, his compassion, courage and conviction have enabled his fledgling society, first incorporated in 1966, to become the flourishing worldwide movement it is today.

He authored more than 70 volumes on the Krishna tradition. These books are highly respected by scholars for their clarity, authority, depth and fidelity to the tradition. Several of his works are used as textbooks in numerous college courses. His writings have been translated into 76 languages. His most prominent works include: *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, the 30-volume *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, and the 17-volume *Sri Caitanya-caritamrita*.

The scriptures describe that the Lord would send a *senapati bhakta*, a 'military commander', who would fulfil the prediction of Lord Caitanya that the holy names would resound in every town and village in the world.

In the *Caitanya Mangala* by Locana dasa, it is described:

*yadi papi chadi  
dharma dure dese  
yaya mora senapati-bhakta  
yaibe tathaya*

"If some sinful people escape and giving up religious principles go to far off countries, then my *senapati bhakta* will come at that time to give them Krishna consciousness."

It is beyond doubt that Srila Prabhupada is that *senapati bhakta* personally sent by Lord Krishna to revive our eternal relationship with Him. 🙏

Sources: ISKCON Disciple Course Handbook; [www.iskcon.org](http://www.iskcon.org)

## YOUR HOMAGE



As the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the pre-eminent teacher and ultimate authority within our society for all time, Srila Prabhupada has a unique relationship with every ISKCON devotee. On this blessed day of Srila Prabhupada's Appearance Day, we therefore request all devotees, young and old, to write an offering to Prabhupada celebrating this blessed event, focusing on his life, qualities and teachings. At the New Govardhana celebrations this year, more time is being allocated so all the devotees can present their homage in glorification of Srila Prabhupada.

# IN FOCUS: RUPA RAGHUNATHA DASA

By Krsnarupa devi dasi (bkg)

Rupa Raghunatha dasa has been travelling and distributing Srila Prabhupada's books for many years. He finds that his inspiration to travel so much is the opportunity to go to new places he hasn't been before, where people don't often get the association of devotees. Sometimes he may be the first devotee who has ever been there.

"There are special devotees even in the smallest places," says Rupa Raghunatha.

"I often cook buckets of *kichari* and *halava* to distribute along with books. This really pleases people. Prabhupada said *prasadam* is the secret weapon."

Often Rupa Raghunatha will set up a table with books and *prasadam* on the street, or walk around to each shop and show them books personally. He often feels inspired to do *harinama*, especially in remote towns, as they may not have another chance to hear the holy names.

"Sometimes we find devotees or interested people to stay with on the road. In Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville there are family-hosting programs that I am able to join in and give class.



On a recent book distribution adventure with his family, Rupa Raghunatha dasa stopped to pick fruits from a farm near Ingham. The owner was excited to receive some of Srila Prabhupada's books and gave a donation as well.

"I like to read Prabhupada's books every day – they give you the conviction that this is the topmost process."

Rupa Raghunatha's original ancestors were Christian missionaries in the 1790s. Thomas Hassall was called the 'travelling parson', because he used to preach from Sydney to Canberra and Newcastle riding his horse town to town. Rupa Raghunatha says, "Now I feel like I have the same missionary spirit not on four legs, but on four wheels!"

"I love having a family and spending time with them reading stories about Krishna but also just playing. We

travel together sometimes and have fun holidays as well as *sankirtana*. I also really like gardening, planting lots of fruits, flowers and vegetables!" 🐞

## WEEKEND WARRIORS

*Rupa Raghunatha will be training 'weekend warriors', who are working people willing to distribute books as a monthly weekend service.*

**Please call Rupa Raghunatha  
0423 121 589  
for more information.**

# KIDS & KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

By Krsnarupa devi dasi (bkg)

Families have always been an important focus of the New Govardhana community. With its spacious natural surroundings and professional *gurukula*, it is an ideal place for raising children.

Srila Prabhupada writes that parents should not have children for their own selfish reasons, but to make them devotees of Krishna. Although at times it can be tough, parents can help their children become devotees

by lovingly training them in spiritual knowledge, and by being enthusiastic themselves.

Jaya Sila, from New Zealand *gurukula*, speaks about a gentle way of disciplining children. Give energy to the positive things they do, he says, which you want to encourage. By catching the 'positives' children learn to repeat positive behaviour in order to receive attention.

A great way to make Krishna consciousness fun for children is to help them make cakes or write cards for Krishna at festival times; take them on *harinama*; watch Krishna DVDs; do Krishna colouring books

and puzzles; remind them to say Hare Krishna or offer obeisances, especially in the temple; or ask them to lead a *kirtana* in the house or car. There is no need to push or force them – the children will naturally become interested.

Parents – be kind to yourselves! Just do your best with your *sadhana* and service, take the best care of your children, and be positive. Having children gives the opportunity to practise selfless service, and it is also purifying. 🐞



# RESEARCH TEAM FORMS AT CHIPPIWADA TEMPLE

By Padma devi dasi

Due to the recent passing away of His Grace Brahmananda dasa, in July 2015 I ventured to Sri Vrindavan dhama. Prior to his passing, Brahmananda and I had planned to write an article together for *Back to Godhead* magazine about Srila Prabhupada translating *Srimad-Bhagavatam* in the small Chippiwada temple in Old Delhi in the 1960s. At the time of our discussion, neither Brahmananda nor I had the resources to pursue the necessary research for the article, so now I decided to complete this task on behalf of Brahmananda and myself.



Their beautiful Lordships Sri Sri Radha-Vallabha at the Chippiwada temple.

Venturing into the busy Chandni Chowk district of Old Delhi, where the streets are so narrow and crowded that no cars can enter, I was well looked after by a small team of dedicated ISKCON devotees. ISKCON gained full ownership of the temple in 2014 and since then the temple with its beautiful deities Sri Sri Radha-Vallabha, who have presided there for more than 100 years, are now cared for according to standard ISKCON procedures. During Srila Prabhupada's time at the temple, he would sometimes perform the evening *arati* for Their Lordships.

On the second floor of the temple is Prabhupada's famous room in which he wrote the first few cantos of *Srimad-Bhagavatam* in the English language. Travelling between the Sri Sri Radha-Damodara temple in Vrindavana and the Chippiwada temple, Prabhupada was preparing for his preaching in the Western



Photo: Bhaktivedanta Archives

Srila Prabhupada translating *Srimad-Bhagavatam* outside his room in the Chippiwada temple, Delhi, prior to his travelling to America in 1965.

world, which his spiritual master Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati had requested him to do.

During my few days visiting the temple, a small research team of local devotees quickly and unexpectedly formed, driven by everyone's intense interest in Prabhupada's presence at the temple in the 1960s. Our team has dedicated itself to producing a book on this topic, which will be published in both English and Hindi. So far, our research team has unearthed some data that has not yet been documented by ISKCON and we are estimating that we will find more.

More on this topic in future articles in *The Conch* as our research develops. Srila Prabhupada ki jaya! 🙏



Photo: Krishna Balarama dasa

The Chippiwada Temple Research Team (left to right): Paridhi (Historian and Translator), Anshika (Research Assistant), Neelkantha (Chippiwada Temple President), Mayapura Pati (BTG Service Centre), Sameer (Research Assistant), Padma (Research Co-ordinator) and Sanskriti (Research Team Secretary).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BRAHMACHARI ASHRAMA?

By Govardhana Seva dasa

The *brahmachari ashrama* was finished a little over year ago. At present it can accommodate up to seven people comfortably, plus it has separate quarters for visiting *sannyasis*. There are three devotees staying in the *ashrama* at present: Garuda dasa, Gaurapada dasa and Krishna Gana dasa.

Krishna Gana had this to say about the *ashrama* accommodation.

"We are trying to set some good standards in the new *ashrama*, so we are looking for young men who are really interested in this lifestyle, not just looking for a place to stay. They are not easy to find, and if we do get some good young men we need to take care of them nicely and train them in the principles of Krishna consciousness.

"We have had many *swamis* stay since we moved in, and everyone has commented on what a nice facility this *ashrama* is and how much they appreciated the location, so near the temple, and the peace and tranquillity of the surroundings." 🙏



Photos: Govardhana Seva dasa

(Above) The main building of the brahmachari ashrama, which accommodates seven devotees.

(Below) Quarters for visiting male guests.



## MEET THE PUJARI: VAISNAVI DEVI DASI

By *Krsnarupa devi dasi (bkg)*

Vaisnavi devi dasi began dressing the large Deities at New Govardhana when she moved here in 2012. She had been serving in Auckland, New Zealand, since 2005.

And what does she think of her service? “Oh, I love it so much,” she says, smiling with enthusiasm. “It’s so intimate. You get to go up close to the Lord, even touching Their Feet, and have that deeper exchange.

“I like dressing the Deities in such a way that They look like They are dancing. I get inspired by *pujaris* from Bhakti Caru Swami’s temple in Ujjain, India, seeing the different photos on Facebook. I usually prepare for dressing the Deities the day before.

“I find serving at New Govardhana is much gentler. The lessons I learned

at New Varshana were tougher and I was also suffering some health problems. When we are in the material world our mind also goes up and down; wherever we end up in the world, we need something that will connect us to Krishna. Deity worship is that service. Krishna is so merciful, He is letting me dress Him.”

Vaisnavi finds dressing Gaura Nitai is the easiest of all. She cleans the domes on the altar on the same day as she knows Gaura Nitai are so merciful that she will always finish dressing Them in time to also clean.

“Dressing Radha Govardhanadhari is a big anxiety,” says Vaisnavi. “I try to dress Them in the mood that I am assisting Radharani. I find that dressing Krishna Balarama is my favourite. They are in such a playful mood. When I am dressing Them, I imagine that They are going out cow herding, going to play with the cowherd boys, with Their bugle and Their rope.”

Vaisnavi is a disciple of His Holiness Bir Krishna Goswami. She is also qualified in early childhood education and is teaching art at the *gurukula*. Vaisnavi also likes painting – if she has any spare time! 🐾



Photo: Vishnujana dasa

*Vaisnavi devi dasi bathing Srimati Radharani at New Govardhana.*

## INDIA ADVENTURES

By *Krsnarupa devi dasi (acbsp)*

It’s been some years in the planning and many years in the praying, but for now I am able to have the best of both worlds: living in Murwillumbah and in Mayapur!

I moved to New Govardhana from bustling Sydney just over three years ago. I love the community of devotees and feel very protected by our beautiful Deities here.

My plan in moving was to continue my freelance editing and be able to spend four months in Mayapur, where I have a very strong connection. I was one of the early devotees in Mayapur *dhama* in the early 1970s to the 1980s.

Generally I visit Mayapur in its winter months, avoiding the heat of the India summer. However, this time I also had to go in the month of June, one of the hottest months, and stay for the start of the wet season.

I was in for quite a shock. The first week I arrived was one of the hottest and despite an air conditioner up full blast and fans running conjointly, the apartment still felt like an oven. After being in a semi-comatose condition for about five days, I gradually came

to life and could peel myself off the floor. My years of living in the West had softened my ability to cope with the heat.

Once the rains hit, I suddenly was reminded of some of the sweetest times I experienced in those pioneering days. Bathing in the Ganges during Purusottama month brought back memories of the *dhama*’s quintessentially divine nature as the holy river’s tawny-coloured waters washed over me, cleansing the body, mind and heart.

Heading back to Murwillumbah, via a week in Bangkok, was not the happiest of endings however. The day after my arrival in Thailand, my lower back seized up and I spent the week in my hotel room with daily visits to the hospital. But with a sigh of relief, I experienced better medical care than I expected in what looked like a five-star hotel, with a chandelier in the foyer and a piano playing to greet patients.

Just remember, dear readers, make sure your travel insurance is up to date, which mine wasn’t. And if you head to Mayapur in the rainy season, remember to bring a raincoat, which I didn’t ... 🐾



Photo: Ananta Govinda dasa

**NOTE:** At the time of writing, Mayapur is in flood. Anyone heading over there should check with Mayapur management on the status of the entry roads and other conditions.



Photo Supplied by: Krsnarupa devi dasi (bkg)

The Conch editorial panel welcomes its new staff writer, Krsnarupa devi dasi, the wife of Rupa Raghunatha dasa.

# SRIMATI RADHARANI

By Ambika devi dasi

Appearing in Varsana to enhance the pastimes of the Lord, Srimati Radharani possesses innumerable transcendental attributes and is the centre of all Vrindavana's activities.

Radha is the very form of ecstatic love for Sri Krishna. Her sacred name indicates the topmost worshipper of Krishna. She surpasses all in beauty, good qualities, in good fortune, and, above all, in love. Krishna can sometimes be found stuttering and repeating Her ambrosial name with His face moistened by tears.

She is the full power and Krishna is the possessor of full power. The two are not different. Although They are one, They have taken two forms to enjoy the mellows of pastimes.

Decorated with a smile of pure love for Krishna, Radha's beautiful face defeats the beauty of millions of moons. Her charming transcendental form, splendid gold in colour, is decorated with various ornaments that stun Sri Krishna. He is tightly under the control of Her love.

She is the topmost of lovers of the Lord, possessing unique and uncommon qualities and arts meant for Krishna's satisfaction.

If we approach Krishna through the compassionate mercy of Srimati Radharani, we can easily attain Him, because He accepts any devotee recommended by His beloved. The illustrious Six Goswamis presented Her service as the highest possible attainment for the living entity.

All glories to Srimati Radharani. May She bestow Her blessings on all Her worshippers.



Photo: Trevor Gore

Srimati Radharani at New Govardhana, Australia.

Srimati Radharani's birthday will be celebrated on Tuesday, 22 September. Please visit [krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) for details.

(Sources: CC Adi 4.96; CC Adi 4.97; CC Madhya 11.150; SB 2.3.23 purport; 'Appreciating Vrindavan Dham' by Mahanidhi Swami.)



Photo: Vishnujana dasa

At last month's mega music fest 'Splendour in the Grass' held in Byron Bay, Govindas Catering distributed approximately 8000 servings of prasadam to the enthusiastic crowd.

## 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), Krishnarupa devi dasi (bkg), 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



### Sri Janmastami Sunday, 6 September

3:00 pm	Festival start
4:00 pm	Dhupa arati
6.30 pm	Sandhya arati
10.00 pm	Abhiseka
11.00 pm	Curtains close for Deity dressing and altar decoration; Kirtana in the temple
Midnight	Midnight arati
12.30 am	Feast

We will also be offering gifts to the deities, so devotees are requested to open their hearts for the Lord and bring Him gifts for His birthday.

There will also be a swing festival and cultural activities.



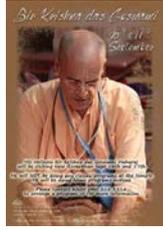
### Sri Vyasa Puja Monday, 7 September

Please check our website [krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) for details as they become available.



### Bhakti Vidya Purna Swami 16–21 September

Please check our website [krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) for details as they become available.



### Bir Krishna das Goswami Wednesday, 16 and Thursday, 17 September

Home programs only.  
Please contact Kisori dasi for more  
information 040 212 8815.



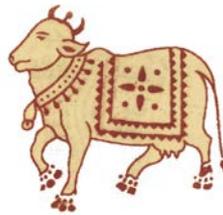
### Sri Radhastami Tuesday, 22 September

Please check our website  
[krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) for details as they  
become available.



### Bhaktivinoda Thakura Appearance Saturday, 26 September

7.00 am	Darshan
7.30 am	SB Class
10.00 am	Bhajans and readings
11.45 am	Prasadam to Bhaktivinoda Thakura
11.50 am	Puspanjali
12.00 pm	Gurupuja–arati and kirtana
12.30 pm	Feast



## 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](http://bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au)**

### Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast  
**Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021**

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

- 6 Sun Sri Krishna Janmastami: Appearance of Lord Sri Krishna (Fast till midnight)
- 7 Mon Nandotsava: Srila Prabhupada Vyasa Puja (Fast till noon)
- 9 Wed Ekadasi. Fasting for Annada Ekadasi
- 10 Thu Dvadasi: Break fast 5.51 am – 9.46 am
- 22 Tue Radhastami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani (Fast till noon)
- 25 Fri Dvadasi (Suitable for Fasting): Fasting for Parsva Ekadasi  
Sri Vamana Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva (Fasting till noon, with feast tomorrow)  
Srila Jiva Goswami – Appearance (Fast till noon for Bhaktivinoda Thakura, with feast tomorrow)
- 26 Sat Sri Bhaktivinoda Thakura – Appearance (Fasting was done yesterday, feast today)