



Dec 15/Jan 16



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

BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASVATI THAKURA

Disappearance Day

MUKUNDA GOSWAMI

On the Mend

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kids Love It!

OPERA HOUSE

50th Anniversary Update

**DOUBLE
ISSUE
DEC-JAN**



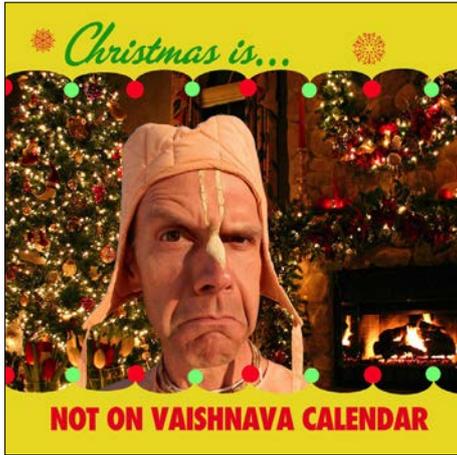
Keep *The Conch* in print!
Donate a gold coin at the
Temple Shop.

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + IN FOCUS + GOSHALA GOSS + WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CHRISTMAS AND THE DEVOTEES OF KRISHNA

By *Krishnarupa devi dasi (bkg)*

The end of the year is upon us! For most Australians, this time of year brings a focus on the celebration of Christmas. What does this mean to the devotees of Krishna?



Photos: googleimages.com

Yama Niyama dasa roasts Christmas.

“Christmas is not on the Vaisnava calendar” is a phrase that has been coined by devotional singer/songwriter Yama Niyama dasa in his satirical Christmas album* of the same name. Each hilarious track points out the nature of the Christmas culture, with its jingle bells, Christmas lights and inflatable white-bearded men in red suits. While using famous Christmas melodies to speak Krishna conscious philosophy, the listener is directed to seek a deeper spirituality than the Christmas madness of the material world (and have a good laugh at the same time).

However, Christmas does have a deeper spiritual meaning: it marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the empowered spiritual teacher, the son of God. Srila Prabhupada spoke highly of Jesus, yet encouraged us to fully develop our love of God by following strictly His laws and increase our dedication. (See *Science of Self-Realisation*, Ch 4 ‘Understanding Krishna and Christ’, by Srila Prabhupada). Practitioners of Krsna consciousness can meditate on Prabhupada’s words: that there is no difference between the names of Krishna and Christ. We have an opportunity in this lifetime to focus our attention on glorifying the Lord.

This is the true ‘spirit of Christmas’. Our secular society is increasingly taking this message away and replacing it with something that can be bought and sold.

The commercialisation of Christmas is not all bad. Though the rush in the stores to buy gifts is a trait of the materialistic lifestyle that Vaisnavas try to avoid, everything can be used in Krishna’s service. The idea of gift giving is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve one another. In *Nectar of Instruction*, Text 4, Rupa Goswami writes, and Srila Prabhupada translates, “Offering gifts in charity, accepting charitable gifts, revealing one’s mind in confidence, inquiring confidentially, accepting *prasad* and offering *prasad* are the six symptoms of love shared by one devotee and another”. It is a beautiful exchange and a sweet ritual to wrap and offer other Vaisnavas a gift.

The holiday season brings us plenty of free time, which is a blessing to devotees – time to visit the temple, to increase our chanting and association. It also brings many opportunities to share Krishna with other holiday makers, such as the Woodford festival catering stalls, and performing *harinama* to Boxing Day and New Year’s Eve crowds. There is also the wonderful December marathon, where devotees take advantage of the many eager shoppers in busy stores by distributing Srila Prabhupada’s books.

All this gives us plenty to celebrate! Have a wonderful Krishna conscious Christmas season! 🙏

* Yama Niyama’s devotional Christmas album can be downloaded online.



Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Kardama Muni desired to beget a child who would be a ray of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. One should beget a child who can perform the duties of Vishnu; otherwise there is no need to produce children. There are two kinds of children born of good fathers; one is educated in Krsna consciousness so that he can be delivered from the clutches of Maya in that very life, and the other is a ray of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and teaches the world the ultimate goal of life. In the same order as Kardama Muni, about one hundred years ago, Thakur Bhaktivinoda also wanted to beget a child who could preach the philosophy and teachings of Lord Chaitanya to the fullest extent. By his prayers to the Lord he had as his child Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Maharaja, who at the present moment is preaching the philosophy of Lord Chaitanya throughout the entire world through his bona-fide disciples.” (SB, 3.22 pg.226)

“Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura used to say, “if I could perfectly deliver even one soul back home, back to Godhead, I would think my mission, propagating Krsna consciousness, to be successful” (SB 4.12.pg189)

(See page 12 for Disappearance Day date)
Srila Prabhupada Quotes compiled from Ray of Vishnu-Biography of Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura, by Rupa Vilas Dasa.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

Baker Extraordinaire: Amber Borsotti

By Mandakini devi dasi

Sydney-born Amber Borsotti was two years old when she was first introduced to the Hare Krishna Vedic lifestyle. Three years later she was enrolled in New Govardhana *gurukula* where she remained for the next six years before relocating to New Nandagram, Victoria.

Amber returned to Murwillumbah when she was 15, settling into householder life by the time she was 16. A busy and dedicated mum, she has five children ranging in ages from four to 17.

With the family growing up, Amber and her husband, Leonardo, considered some working options. They finally agreed to venture into the bread-making business. Amber had entertained four passions in life: architecture, psychology, fabrics and food. Having produced quality bread on the farm in earlier years, friends and family members had often urged her to “go into food”.

Months of hard work followed as the couple researched equipment and painstakingly developed their own special recipes. The result is an impressive home bakery and an outstanding product called ‘Levadura’, which consists of organic, artisan sourdough (a much healthier and tastier alternative to commercial bread).



Photo: facebook.com

When a retail opportunity opened up at Uki Farmers Market at the end of September, Amber and Leonardo took the initiative, and on their first outing ended up selling their entire stock.

Production has since increased from 50 to 90 items twice a week, and still there is a demand for more.

The bread is naturally leavened, requiring Amber and Leo to “rise” at 1.00 am on Wednesday and Saturday mornings to prepare their batch.

Variety being the spice of life, alongside the basic loaves there is much to choose from. For example, savoury loaves like Olive, Rosemary and Pecorino; Dark Euro-style Rye with Caraway and Fennel; and Vegan Fruitful Loaf and Sweet Spiced Rye and Fig, to name a few. Melt-in-the-mouth croissants and chocolate scrolls, as sampled by the author, must be tasted to be believed. 🐼



Photo: Aravinda dasa

(L. to R.) Leonardo and Amber hard at work.

HOW TO ORDER

Order by 6.00 pm on Monday for collection on Wednesday. Products also available on Saturdays at Uki Farmers Market.

Contact Leonardo/Amber
0427 091 364

SRI SRI RADHA-LONDONISVARA'S 46TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The 46th Anniversary event of world famous Radha Londonisvara was recently celebrated in Bedford Way, London last month on 29 November.

In theatre-style venue Logan Hall, the event was marked with a drama, *kirtana*, presentations and a delicious *prasadam* feast.

His Holiness Radhanatha Swami and His Grace Shyamasundara dasa were special guest speakers. 🐼



Photo: bingimages.com

GOSHALLA GOSS

By *Urvasi devi dasi*

MILK FROM OUR OWN COWS

Ramesvara: Such a dramatic transformation of society.

Prabhupada: Yes. Whatever it may be... We should be satisfied locally by our food, by our cloth, by our milk. That's all ... If you want to save yourself also, you do this.

Here is an example. If you want artificial life, city life, and hellish life, you do. But we shall live like this. This is the ideal life.

(Room Conversation, 21 Jan 1977
Bhubanesvara, India)

What if, just for one year, you put aside the money spent on commercial dairy products and sponsored the building of the new *goshalla* at New Govardhana? There are lots of offerable, nutritious and tasty alternatives to almost all commercial dairy products these days, so it won't be like the end of the world!

This is an excellent way to assist us in fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's desire that we should be satisfied with our own milk, from our own cows.

have become pregnant. Radhika and Chintamani are Girs, and we eagerly await the confirmation from the vet.

Tulsi, one of our elder Friesians, miscarried a premature bull calf in mid-November. Dhruva was approximately four months *in utero*. Although perfectly formed and with no obvious signs of any illness his sojourn at New Govardhana was cut short by the will of the Lord. (Dhruva is the name of the pole star and means motionless.)



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

Tulsi has been serving Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari for many years. Originally rescued from the slaughter-line by Gopinatha Acharya dasa, she is one of our most lovable and loving cows. For the past six years, despite the death of a bull calf and three subsequent failed pregnancies, Tulsi continues to give daily, generous quantities of milk for the pleasure of the Deities and the residents of New Govardhana. All glories to Tulsi Ma!

The message is simple yet profound and sublime: the urgent need to give total and absolute care, protection and maintenance to our Mother Cow who supplies all of humanity's necessities of life.

The 12-year marathon aims at providing total protection to all forms of life, beginning with our Mother Surabhi who is the emblem of peace, prosperity and all auspiciousness.

His Holiness RP Bhakti Rāghava Swami, Minister for IDVM-India, invites you to become part of this noble effort. By serving our Mother Surabhi we will bring happiness to the Lord and when Lord Krishna is pleased the whole world becomes happy. Find out more at srisurabhi.org



Artwork: Urvasi devi dasi

The monsoon rains are here and the pastures of New Govardhana have a new lease on life. Our cows are looking very healthy and happy, although muddy after a day out grazing.

Although not 100 per cent confirmed at this stage, two of our heifers may

OM ŚRĪ SURABHI CAMPAIGN

The launching of the Om Sri Surabhi Campaign invoking "global auspiciousness", centred on the Surabhi Cow, our Universal Mother, is an initiative of the ISKCON Daiva Varnasrama Ministry (IDVM) of India, in collaboration with the Global Village Initiative Committee (GVIC), one of several global initiatives under the GBC/SPT.

From 1 January 2015 to 2 November 2027, it will be commemorating an unprecedented series of ISKCON Golden Jubilee events centred on our Universal Mother the Surabhi Cow, the very foundation and backbone of the Vedic culture.

Artwork: Urvasi devi dasi

I am pleased to announce that the *Care for Cows* Special Edition magazine in honour of Kurma Rupa dasa was released on the auspicious day of Govardhana Puja this year.

Dinanatha dasa from Perth approached me in August this year to collaborate on the memorial magazine, which highlights the life and achievements of the Care for Cows founder.

It is currently only available online at careforcows.org

THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE EVENT

By **Damodara Pandit dasa**

The Sydney Opera Event is an A-List ISKCON 50th Anniversary global event. We anticipate that many VIPs (government officials, actors, musicians, and so on) will attend. It will also be streamed globally and a commemorative DVD and CD will be produced.

The purpose of this event is to expand the global appreciation of Srila Prabhupada and his ISKCON movement through a wonderful performance art event. We are looking at inviting ISKCON'S top performance artists to participate.

The evening will be a cultural gala evening, but all acts will fit into

a narrative of the Hare Krishna Movement's roots, inception, growth, achievements and future.

The event has the working title 'Transcendental Journey: Krishna 50 years on'. The first draft of the storyboard has been completed by Deva Gaura Hari dasa and Damodara Pandit dasa. The story presents Srila Prabhupada's departure from India and then backtracks to the movement's source, including the Lord's pastimes in Navadvipa, Jagannatha Puri and Vrindavana. Then the night will explore the Hare Krishna Movement, expanding in the west with scenes including 26 Second Avenue, Hippy Hill, women of bhakti and the second generation.

We believe it will be a fabulous night out. Get ready. Get excited. 🙏

MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS IN ISKCON

By **Kisori devi dasi**

About a month before Govardhana Puja last year, His Holiness Mukunda Goswami asked me to serve as New Govardhana's media relations person. Duties included news releases for festivals, meeting reporters and showing them around, and interviews with the media. Mukunda Goswami explained this was his service for many years when he was a young devotee, which he had continued doing until he 'handed me the baton' as he told me.

Being the great visionary that he is, Maharaja felt that having an Indian female in this role showcased how integrated and multicultural ISKCON was, as well as its stand on women in today's world.

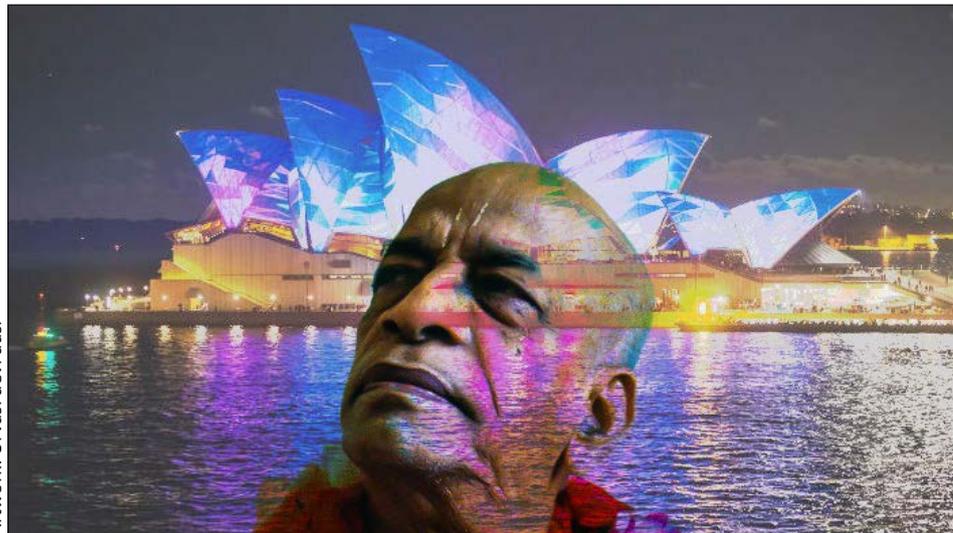
On the very day of his serious fall, Maharaja had sent me an email saying he wanted me to meet a reporter and editor named Nikki, whom he knew well and who had contacted him to do an article.

Nikki had written a few articles on Mukunda Goswami and the farm in the past. She had naturally been very respectful towards Maharaja and understood his position in ISKCON. She had also previously dined at the home of Malini devi dasi and Krsna Kirtan dasa. Once she heard of the situation, she, along with me, felt that Maharaja would get a pleasant surprise seeing this article in the papers.

Knowing that would be what he wanted, I contacted Nikki as well as the various department heads at New Govardhana and arranged a time for Nikki and her photographer to meet everyone for interviews.

I took them for a tour of the farm, which they were really impressed by and commented that they would certainly do many more articles in the future.

The article appeared in the *Tweed Daily News* on 7 November, an Ekadasi! I would like to thank Venugopal dasa, Henrike, Vinod Bihari dasa, Trevor, Visnujana dasa as well as all other devotees involved in any way in this endeavour. 🙏



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

EASTER HOLY NAME RETREAT

By **Ajita dasa**

New Govardhana is hoping to schedule a Holy Name Retreat (HNR) during Easter 2016 with His Holiness Indradyumna Swami, Bhada Hari dasa and Sri Prahlada dasa.

Easter is a very busy time for the New Govardhana crew, so we can only host this retreat with the assistance of volunteers.

We are looking for volunteers to manage the following services:

- Overall manager(s) for retreat
- Schedule and MC
- Decoration of the hall

- *Prasadam* cooking and serving in-charge
- Accommodation coordinator
- Airport pick up and drop off
- VIP care
- Devotee general care.

The New Govardhana devotees are currently working at capacity, so ideally the HNR crew should be sourced from outside New Govardhana's regular crew with some exceptions.

New Govardhana can provide finances and all the infrastructure.

Please contact me as a high priority.

Mob +61 419 645 305

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

By Syama Sakhi devi dasi

The Bhaktivedanta Swami Secondary School at New Govardhana is intent on creating an environment of academic excellence, Krishna conscious goals and understanding, and meaningful character development. To these ends, this year the *gurukula* has invited various guest speakers to the school and taken students to different events outside of school. This allows students to broaden their understanding of this world and their role in it.

One such event students attended was the GRIP leadership conference for secondary schools. GRIP is an independent organisation that exists to train and develop leaders with a special focus on school students and the educational sector. Hence, our school captains, Anjali, Gaur, Bimala, Balaram, Lakshman, Suniti and Kalindi

received the opportunity to attend the GRIP leadership conference that took place on the 26 October at the Tweed Civic Centre.

The aim of the one-day conference was to inspire secondary school students to take up effective leadership roles in their schools. Through topics like, 'How to improve your public speaking skills' to 'How to make your events more dynamic', the conference offered our students a chance to broaden their leadership skills. It also enabled them to meet many other teenage students from across Australia.

The whole event was excellent. The students experienced their first professional conference and made valuable contributions throughout.

We are hopeful that through such training offered by the *gurukula*, the students will be able to develop excellent leadership skills valuable to their life inside and outside of school. 🐞



Photos supplied by Syama Sakhi devi dasi

Gurukula students at the GRIP leadership conference held in Tweed Heads.

FAMILY AFFAIR

By Damodara Pandit dasa

There are many devotees in the Tweed area offering services to Krishna – some are more noticeable than others.

Param Vijaya dasa would probably fit into the category of a quiet achiever. Every Sunday morning he arrives at New Govardhana for his weekly service to Radha Govardhanadhari. His wife, Devika, heads off to serve in the Temple Shop and Param will go into the Temple room to sing beautiful *bhajans* to the Lord. Both of them keep a watchful eye over their four-year-old daughter Mallika, who loves Sundays at the farm.

But there is a lot more bhakti going on with this devotional family than this. Every morning Param worships his Giriraja Sila and his other Deities, as he has done for the past 20 years. Recently he also began working a few days a week in the Food for Life centre in Brisbane.

Param is the part-time carer for Prem Das, an elderly Vaisnava who lives in Murwillumbah. He visits Prem a few times a week and helps him with anything he is having trouble

with. Devika, who is famous for her cooking, is always networking and catering for many devotee community get-togethers.

One story that tells of Param and Devika's character involves a homeless lady in Murwillumbah. One night after a Sunday Feast, they stopped to fill up their drinking water bottle at the Caltex service station. There they saw a homeless lady and offered her some *prasadam* they had with them. A week or two later they meet up with her again. She said "Are you the ones who brought the food that night?" When they responded that they were, the lady said: "Here, you dropped \$5" and she handed over the money. They are now all good friends. 🐞



Photo: Trevor Gore

(L. to R.) Param Vijaya dasa, Devika and daughter Mallika.

THANKS FROM THE CONCH TEAM



Photo Supplied by Laksmi Priya devi dasi

The Conch Team would like to thank Laksmi Priya devi dasi from Brisbane, who proof-reads *The Conch* each month before our final meeting. She has been performing this service for two years and her help is much appreciated.

ISKCON DISCIPLE COURSE

By *Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)*

New Govardhana recently hosted its second ISKCON Disciple Course this year. The course was held over two weekends, with 13 attendees – four from Brisbane, two from Kingscliff and the balance from the local community.

As facilitator of the course, I was impressed with everyone's enthusiasm and commitment.

Since Janmastami 2015, any devotee desiring to take either first or second initiation must have undergone the course and received a certificate proving that they have passed the assessment. It is recommended that the course be taken well before the initiation stage for first initiates.

It is expected that New Govardhana will be hosting the next Disciple Course around April next year. 🙏



Photo: Daniel Cruz

Students from the recent ISKCON Disciple Course, with facilitator Krishnarupa devi dasi (second row, centre).

MEET THE PUJARI: Syamamrita Vitarani devi dasi

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

In the mid-nineties, Syamamrita Vitarani (Victoria Zinchenko) would sometimes run into devotees on the streets of her home city in Moscow.

She never paid much attention until her father brought home a *Bhagavad-gita*. Syama recalls that she and her mother were not too pleased when dad immersed himself in reading the sacred conversation. Aware of family disapproval and keen to avoid conflict, dad would hide in the bathroom to study the text.

At the age of 15, due to some health problems, Syama became a vegetarian and her mom and dad joined her in support of her alternative choice.

Syama met her husband Vladimir Vodopyanov (Visnujana dasa) at her workplace in the sky, as they were both employed by Aeroflot International Airlines. Vegetarian food was hard to come by at that time in Russia and she laughingly recalls an early date with her husband when

they sat on a park bench and shared a whole jar of pickles.

Being keen to develop a spiritual lifestyle at this time, the couple were practising Tai Chi along with the parents and grandparents. They also embraced a mystic yogic path of deep meditation, which culminated in walking across shattered glass and glowing embers. No accidents were involved!

Eventually they met Krishna devotee Medini Pati dasa, who guided them in the practices of devotional life. Syama assisted the *pujaris* at the local temple in Moscow and also took the Deity worship course, learned the art of Vedic cooking and Vedic psychology.

Daughter Nika (16) and son Balarama (14) are now senior students at New Govardhana *gurukula*.

Syama, with assistance from the kids, took up garland-making, paraphernalia duties and cooking several times a week for her guru Mukunda Goswami. She is presently appreciating performing the midday offering and *arati* twice a week.

Visnujana dasa is taking a Bachelor of Film Production course at the SAE Institute.

The couple are happy to serve at the temple and be near to their spiritual master, Mukunda Maharaja. 🙏

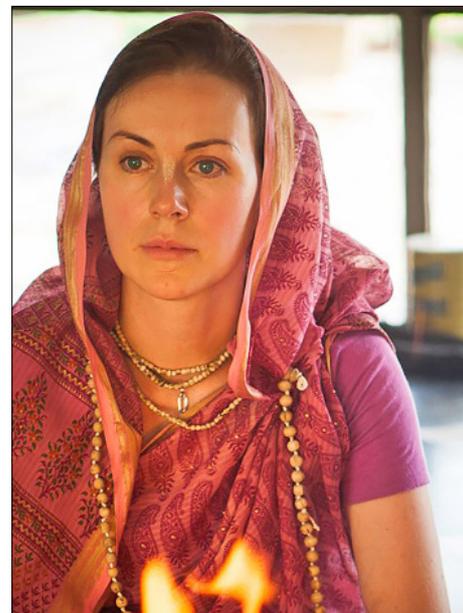


Photo: Joel Quaw Photography

BRAVO, BRAVE BRAHMACHARINI

By *Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)*

Resident *brahmacharini* Jyestha dasi has been recovering from serious brain surgery and is now back in the *ashrama*. Her brain had been growing too large for her skull, forcing itself down outside the skull cavity and into her spinal cord. The subsequent pressure on her spinal cord caused a massive cyst-like lump called a 'syrinx'. Operating on the syrinx itself was extremely dangerous, and, as Jyestha describes, "In itself it was a secondary problem".

Surgeons at the Gold Coast University Hospital removed part of her skull in a procedure called 'decompression



Photo : Trevor Gore

Jyestha devi dasi at the recent Govardhana Puja festival, 2015.

surgery for Budd Chiari malformation' and filed the thickness right back to make more room for her brain and to lift it off her spinal cord and back into her skull. With her usual humour, she told me, "That hurt. A lot!"

The 10 days post-surgery were extremely painful for her, and the doctors were concerned about the degree of pain and dizziness. However, two kind devotees Radha and Lochanananda visited the hospital to share Damodarastakam prayers with her. The next morning, Jyestha says she woke up "feeling 90 per cent better and could walk without too much pain".

Let's all offer prayers in thanks to Radha Govardhanadhari for Jyestha's safe return to the community.

Welcome back, Jyestha! 🙏

BUS TOUR

By *Yasoda devi dasi*

On the 12 September, New Govardhana had a visit from 44 Year 9 students from Kadina High School, Goonellabah. The students were accompanied by three of their teachers. They are studying Geography at school and as part of their curriculum are required to investigate a 'Community'.

Upon arrival, we visited the fruit and flower gardens in the Krishna Village area. We looked at the type of short-term accommodation available and the communal kitchen, pizza oven and so on. We wandered across to the yoga centre and they were very impressed with how the shed had been beautified and converted into a yoga centre. We also headed up to the vegetable gardens to look at the produce growing here and to view some of our cows lazing in the sunshine. This led us into a discussion about the concept of "Simple living and high thinking".

The bus drove everyone to the temple area. The teachers had sent me a document of 18 questions prior to the day of the excursion. I answered these as a group, as it is a requirement that the students were to discuss and record the answers for an assignment that they will complete back at school after their visit to us. The questions are quite varied and

some of the topics include Hare Krsna key beliefs, sense of identity, lifestyle features, history and the like.

It was now time for the midday *arati*. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience first hand what they had come here to learn about. I had asked permission from the *gurukula*, if the secondary students would be present at the *arati*. Anjali led a very powerful *kirtana*, with most students assisting with playing instruments. The students from Kadina were dancing enthusiastically.

The *gurukula* students then sang the Shanti mantras for peace, which impressed everyone with their potency. We followed this with the *gurukula* students explaining a little about their lifestyle and answering questions from the Kadina students. It was a wonderful exchange for everyone involved.

The Kadina students enjoyed a succulent lunch of *prasadam* cooked by Jhulan dasi. Many thanks to the devotees who assisted on the day, especially Vasustrestha dasa and those who assisted. This contributed in making it a very special and memorable day for the students.

Finally, I was so impressed that one of the teachers from Kadina has brought many school excursions to our community from various schools that he has taught at over the years. He had first visited us when he was

a student on the same type of bus tour with the school he attended as a teenager. This showed me how much of an impression that our community had upon him, so much so that he wishes to share the experience with his own students whom he now teaches. 🙏

GOVARDHANA PUJA



FAST FACTS

Please join us each
Ekadasi for
Srimad-Bhagavatam
video class given by
His Divine Grace Srila
Prabhupada.
These classes will
feature subtitles.
Darshan arati 7.00 am
Class 7.30 am

This edition of *The Conch*
is a double issue covering
December 2015 and
January 2016.

The next issue will be
printed by
1 February 2016.

Odana Sashti

Odana Sashti, 17 December, is a festival that marks the beginning of winter. During the Odana-sashti festival the devotees dress Lord Jagannatha and Balarama with starched cloth. This ceremony indicates that from that day forward, a winter covering should be given to the Lord.

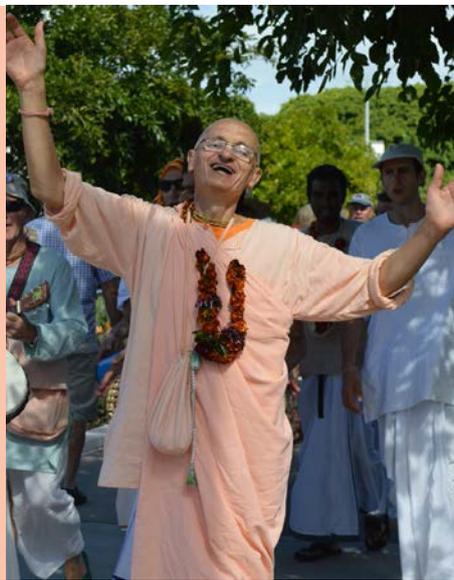
That covering is directly purchased from a weaver, and freshly purchased cloth is usually starched to preserve it. According to the *archana-marga*, a cloth should first be washed to remove all the starch, and then it can be used to cover the Lord. On this occasion by the desire of Lord Jagannatha, His servants dress Him in new, starched clothes.



Janananda Goswami Visiting Gold Coast, Brisbane and New Govardhana

Janananda Goswami arrives on the Gold Coast Tuesday, 5 January at 7.50 am. He will spend time with the Harinama Ruci party. He departs for New Zealand on Sunday, 10 January at 6.10 am.

He will fly back to the Gold Coast at 6.45 am, on Friday, 29 January for the Vyasa puja program Monday, 1 February, 2016.



KRISHNA'S ARRANGEMENTS

By *Ekadasi devi dasi*

Govardhan Seva dasa was born on 19 June 1934, and I was born in January 1940; we were married in March 1960, and have always been good friends.

Govardhana Seva was diagnosed with multiple-myeloma in March 2008, which also destroyed his kidney function. As a result he has been on regular and frequent dialysis. He has been in remission for three years with the multiple-myeloma and so we were asked if we would like to be trained for home dialysis, which takes 6 to 12 weeks.

The training is intensive and includes a full session of dialysis each of the four days we are there. Angela and Susanna, the nurses who are training us, are very knowledgeable and helpful.

At the time of writing, we are towards the end of our training and the home dialysis machine should be installed into our home by the time you read this.

There is no feeling of anxiety or fear although often mistakes can be made. I am grateful to Krishna for keeping my mind focused and, amazingly, accepting the procedure of home dialysis completely. I feel that this is what Krishna wants and so I just want to be an instrument.

Our chanting, which starts at 3.00 am every day, then *mangala arati* with our home Deities and looking

after Them. Then prayers; reading Prabhupada's books; growing flowers in the garden for the Deities; looking after our 17-year old dog, Bosco; keeping the home clean and tidy because it belongs to Krishna. This, plus our services at the Temple, keeps us occupied and satisfied with everything. 🙏



Photograph: Alicia Sey

(L. to R.) *Ekadasi devi dasi*, *Angela Mathews CNS Home Dialysis Training Unit, Govardhana Seva dasa (seated)* and *Suzanna Turner after the completion of dialysis training.*

NOTE FROM THE CONCH TEAM

Govardhana Seva dasa is an integral part of *The Conch* editorial panel. We look forward to his presence at future meetings.

DEVOTEES WORLDWIDE RALLY FOR MUKUNDA GOSWAMI

By *Madhavendra Puri dasa*

Venture up the back hills of New Govardhana Farm, to Harrison House, or by chance be at the temple at an odd time of the day and you may get the privilege of bumping into the somewhat unassuming, gentle soul known as Mukunda Goswami. Despite his humility, Mukunda Goswami is a veteran of the Hare Krishna movement, who was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in the very first Western yajna in 1966. He located the first ISKCON temple (NY), went on to establish the second ISKCON temple in San Francisco and then with a few devotees travelled to London and spread Krishna consciousness all over Europe. The rest is history.



Photo Supplied by Krishna Kirtana dasa

Early days of ISKCON.

Recently, Maharaja has been living a rather recluse life, yet when difficulty struck, a worldwide community brought their hearts and minds together to offer loving prayers for his wellbeing. On 23 October Maharaja slipped in his bathroom, fractured a hip and was ambulated to Murwillumbah Hospital. Later he was transferred to Tweed Hospital for optimal care and pre-operation tests. Tests showed irregularities in his heart and Maharaja suffered a heart attack in hospital. He was transferred to Gold Coast Hospital and underwent a triple bypass open-heart operation on 27 October. Three days later Maharaja went in again for a critical hip operation.

As all this was unfolding, prayers were flooding in from all corners of the world.



Photograph: Unvasi devi dasi

HH Mukunda Goswami speaks with devotees and guests.

“I have been thinking of Mukunda Goswami constantly and praying for him intensely” said Giriraja Swami.

Mukunda Goswami’s brother, Tom Grant (an established jazz musician), also asked for prayers on the night of Maharaja’s first surgery, pulling together thousands of correspondents in prayerful thoughts.

Niranjana Swami posted: “Please continue with prayers for Mukunda Goswami and as much as possible have kirtanas for him.”

Devotees organised kirtanas in New Govardhana, and Krsna Ksetra Swami organised kirtanas in Radhadesh, Belgium, and there were many more around the globe dedicated to Maharaja.

“We pray to Radha Madhava that your operation is successful and you give your association again” said Jayapataka Swami, and Lokanatha Swami organised 1,500 devotees on Vraja-mandala parikrama to pray for Mukunda Goswami’s protection and recovery.

Many devotees sent prayers and praise including some very senior leaders. Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Bhakti Caru Swami, Bhaktivaibhava Swami, Laksmimoni Mataji, Malati Mataji, Radhanath Swami, Ramai Swami, Ravindra Swarupa Prabhu, Sivaram Swami, and many other godbrothers, godsisters and well-wishers all sent heartfelt messages.

Maharaja is spending some weeks in Murwillumbah Rehabilitation Ward before being discharged.

In the meantime his residence is being analysed by an occupational therapist and will have necessary modifications prior to his return. We all continue to pray for Maharaja’s full recovery.

As Kavicandra Swami aptly put it: “We all owe Mukunda Goswami a great debt for his going out to preach with nothing but his love for Srila Prabhupada.” 🙏

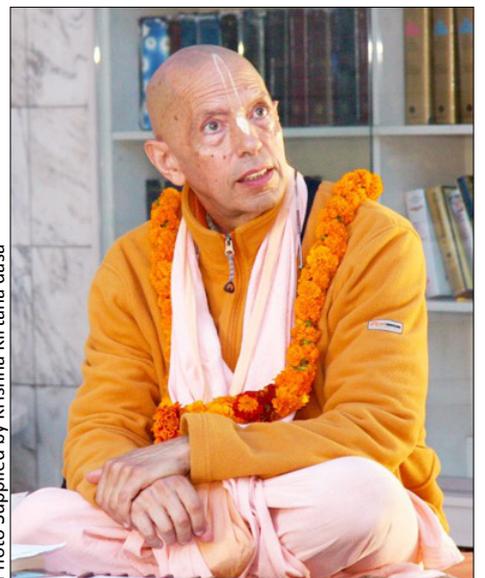


Photo Supplied by Krishna Kirtana dasa



Photograph: Unvasi devi dasi

(Above) HH Mukunda Goswami at New Govardhana.

NEW GOVARDHANA SUNDAY SCHOOL

By *Kisori devi dasi*

Recently I interviewed Indranila devi dasi about the Sunday School she runs at New Govardhana.

Kisori (K): What's your inspiration for running the Sunday School?

Indranila (IN): I thought the children were a bit unsupervised and not positively engaged on Sundays. I also feel very inspired by Aruddha devi dasi's book, which advises how to teach our children Krishna consciousness.

K: Please explain how it all works.

IN: We have three different age groups – under four years old; four to six year olds; and six to 10 year olds.

The first two groups run for an hour each, while under four year olds have activities that include *kirtana*, Krishna conscious nursery rhymes, cognitive development such as matching, sorting, numeracy and literacy with Krishna conscious props, stories, drawing, playdough and coloring-in.

The four to six year olds have *kirtana*, story time with questions, role play pastimes and craft to enhance the learning and comprehension. Finally, the six to 10 year olds learn songs, and read then discuss for 90 minutes. The teacher plays 'devil's advocate' during these discussions. After that there is either games or craft to further solidify understanding in a practical way.

K: What is attendance like?

IN: Attendance ranges from eight to 15 children. I ask for \$1 fee per child

per session to cover costs.

K: What is the feedback that you have received so far?

IN: Parents appreciate the Sunday School, but are often too busy or exhausted to bring children every Sunday.

K: What have you got planned for the future?

IN: The general plan is to inspire children to participate with the Vaisnava community and feel connected. The core focus is to plant the bhakti seed and help them flourish by giving quality guidance and education so we can have children who are strong and confident in themselves as devotees and compassionate enough to want to share Krishna consciousness with the rest of the world.

I would appreciate more parents coming forward to help.

Then we could include programs for older children and teenagers. 🐟



Photo: Aravinda dasa

(Clockwise from top) Vrindarani, Nadia Bihari, Indranila devi dasi, Ayodhya, Saci and Adikesava dasa.

YOUTH BUS TOUR

By *Damodara Pandit dasa*

We are pleased to announce the first ever ISKCON Youth Bus Tour Australia in 2016! Ever wanted to check out the amazing places that are tucked away along the east coastline of Australia? This is your chance! From 10–26 January 2016 we are planning two weeks of adventure-packed days and kirtana filled nights! Sand tobogganing, surfing, bonfires, waterfall swimming, festival feast cook ups, city sightseeing, *maha hari-namas* and festivals all along the way are only some of the adventures we have in mind.

The year 2016 marks ISKCON's 50th Anniversary and what better way to celebrate than a travelling bus of inspired youth, the future of the next 50 years of ISKCON.

At the moment, we are looking for expressions of interest, exploring how many of you are keen to spend an awesome two weeks of the summer together. Please visit the Facebook page or website and drop us a comment.

Share this with all your friends so we can get right into planning two weeks of the first, the greatest, Bus Tour Australia 2016!

Facebook: Bus Tour Australia
<https://www.facebook.com/bustouraustralia/?fref=ts>

Website: <http://bustouraustralia.com/>

Nitai Chandra dasa: 0422 724 920 🐟



EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Mandakini devi dasi, Urvashi devi dasi (layout and graphic design).

For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact: newgovconch@gmail.com

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 will be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HH Devamrita Swami Saturday, 5 - Monday, 7 December

Saturday, 5 December 7.30 am
Srimad Bhagavatam class

Sunday, 6 December 12 noon
Krsna Village talk

Sunday Feast lecture 4.30pm

Monday, 7 December 7.30am
Srimad Bhagavatam class

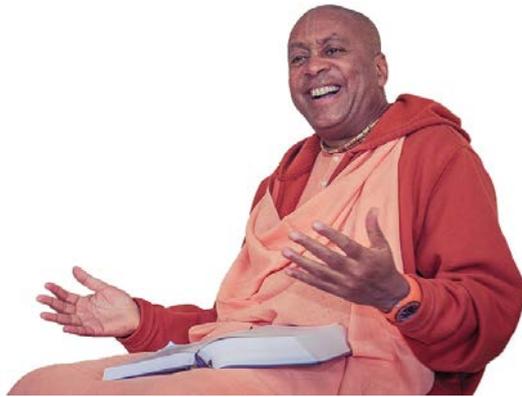


Photo: bingimages.com

HG Narayani Mataji 15 - 24 January

Class schedule still to be finalised.

Check krishnafarm.com for more information.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura Disappearance Day

Tuesday, 29 December

Check krishnafarm.com for more information.



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

DEC/JAN CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaishnavacalendar.com)

- 7 Mon Fasting for Utpanna Ekadasi
Sri Narahari Sarakara Thakura -- Disappearance
- 8 Tue Dvadasi Break fast 5.41 - 10.19 am
Sri Kaliya Krsnadasa -- Disappearance
- 17 Thu Odana sasthi
- 22 Tue Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi
Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
Trisprsa Mahadvadasi
- 23 Wed Trayodasi Break fast 5.46 - 10.25 am
- 29 Tue Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura -- Disappearance

January 2016

- 6 Wed Ekadasi: Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
Sri Devananda Pandita - Disappearance
- 7 Thu Dvadasi: Break fast 5.56 - 10.33 am
- 8 Fri Sri Mahesa Pandita - Disappearance
Sri Uddharana Datta Thakura - Disappearance
- 11 Mon Sri Locana Dasa Thakura - Appearance
- 13 Wed Srila Jiva Goswami - Disappearance
Sri Jagadisa Pandita - Disappearance
- 15 Fri Ganga Sagara Mela
- 20 Wed Ekadasi: Fasting for Putrada Ekadasi
- 21 Thu Dvadasi: Break fast 6.07 - 10.40 am
Sri Jagadisa Pandita - Appearance
- 24 Sun Sri Krishna Pusya Abhiseka
- 29 Fri Sri Ramachandra Kaviraja - Disappearance
Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami - Appearance
- 30 Sat Sri Jayadeva Goswami - Disappearance
- 31 Sun Sri Locana Dasa Thakura - Disappearance

HH Prahladananda Swami 9 - 14 January

Class schedule still to be finalised.

Check krishnafarm.com for more information.

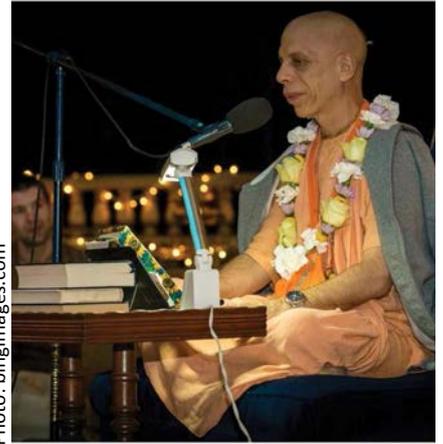


Photo: bingimages.com

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