

December 2014



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

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

SNAKE CHARMER ?

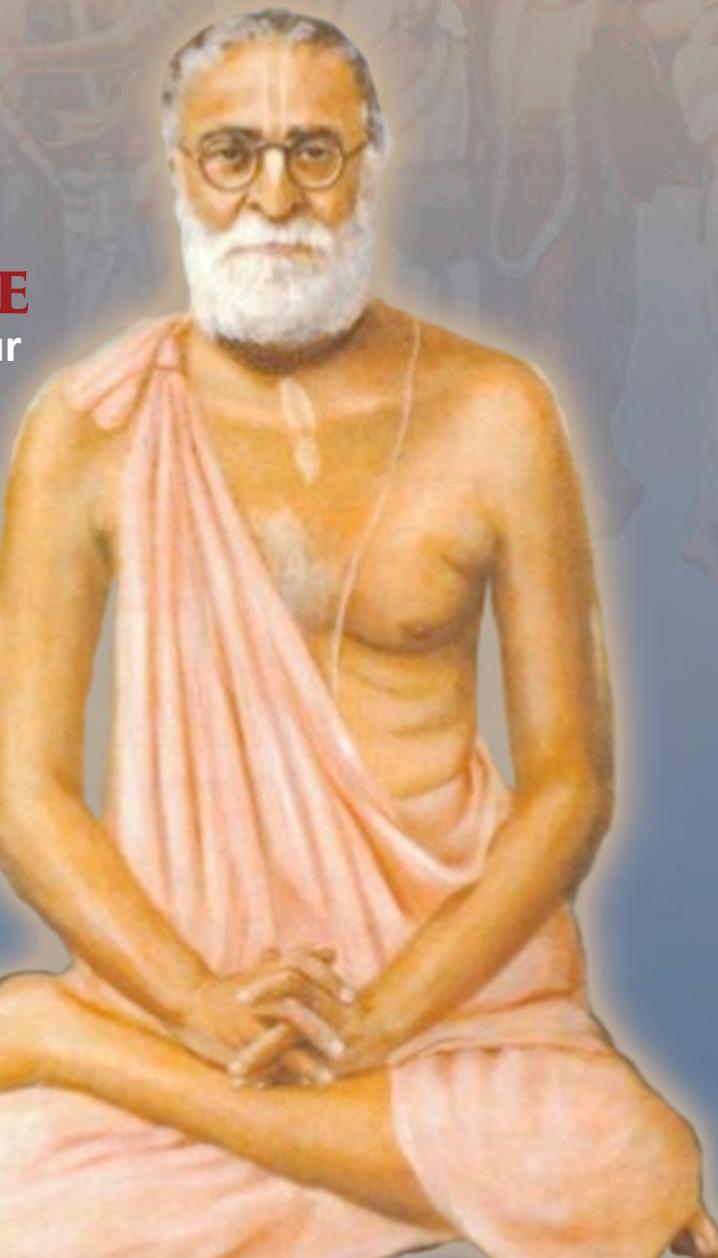
Sharne to the Rescue

COLOURS FLARE

In Brisbane

STUDENT PILGRIMAGE

Gurukulis in Mayapur

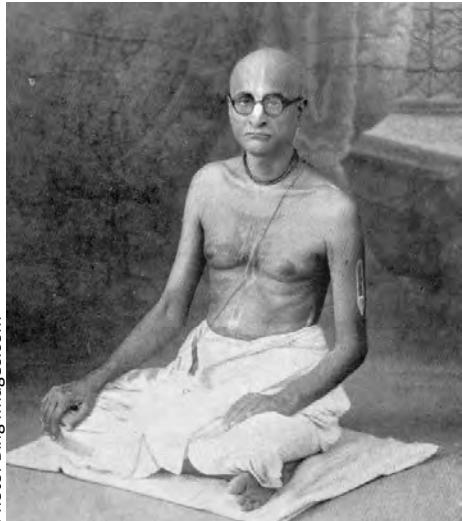


SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + KULI CATCHUP + SNAPSHOTS + UPOMING EVENTS

krishnafarm.com

SRILA BHAKTISIDDHANTA SARASVATI GOSWAMI: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Photo: Bing Images.com



Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura was a highly influential preacher of Gaudiya Vaishnavism throughout India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was born as Bimala Prasada Dutta in the pilgrimage town of Jagannatha Puri, Orissa, India. His father was the Vaishnava scholar Bhaktivinoda Thakura the first to present the teachings of Chaitanyite Vaishnavism to the English-speaking world and was a notable Gaudiya Vaishnava Theologian. Bimala Prasada was well known for having a fiery spirit, an acute intellect and for living a simple, austere lifestyle.

By the time he was 25 years old, Bimala Prasada had acquired an impressive reputation as a scholar of Sanskrit, mathematics, and astronomy. His astronomical treatise on the 'Surya Siddhanta' won him the title Siddhanta Sarasvati in recognition of his immense learning. In 1905, following the advice of his father, Siddhanta Sarasvati accepted spiritual initiation from Gaura-kisora Dasa Babaji. Siddhanta Sarasvati proved himself a capable assistant in the missionary work of his father.

Upon the passing of Bhaktivinoda Thakura in 1914, Siddhanta Sarasvati became editor of his father's journal, 'Sajjana-tosani', and founded the Bhagavata Press for publication of Vaishnava literature. Then in 1918, Siddhanta Sarasvati accepted the order of *sannyasa* (renounced

order of life), assuming the title 'Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami'. For the purpose of propagating the philosophy of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu throughout India, he organized a mission called the Gaudiya Matha, with sixty-four branches throughout the country. The headquarters of the Gaudiya Matha, Sri Chaitanya Matha, was located in Mayapura, the birthplace of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami travelled the length and breadth of India - from Bengal to Orissa, to South India, to Uttar Pradesh. During his many travels he met with kings, scholars, politicians, religious leaders, philosophers, British aristocracy and scientists.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami adjusted the traditions of Gaudiya Vaishnavism to the technological and the social condition of the twentieth century. He considered the printing press the most effective means of spreading Chaitanyite teachings throughout the world and was himself the author of many important translations, commentaries, and philosophical essays. In the early 30's he sent some of his disciples to Europe for missionary work. This was revolutionary in the eyes of orthodox Hinduism, as traditionally monks were not supposed to cross the ocean. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami also implemented other innovations such as using automobiles and dressing his followers in British clothes in order to preach to the English aristocracy. One of the most controversial activities of Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami was his awarding the sacred thread to those that were not born as *brahmanas*. Many born *brahmanas* challenged him on this but using references from the Vedic scriptures he defeated all his opponents.

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami published many books, magazines and a daily newspaper called 'Nadiya Prakash' from his centre in Calcutta. Bhaktisiddhanta's Gaudiya Matha also published many works by the predecessor Acharyas, including Bhaktivinoda Thakura, the Six Goswamis, Narottama Dasa Thakura, Vishvanatha Chakravarti and Baladeva Vidyabhusana and other teachers of the Gaudiya Vaishnava lineage.

Extracted / edited by Damodara Pandit dasa. Source: Gosai.com

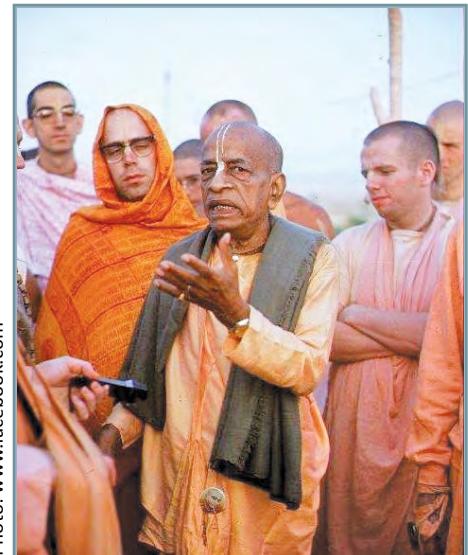


Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srīla Prabhupada Uvaca

Krishna says *yasyaham anughrnami harisye tad-dhanam sanaih*. If somebody wants to be actually a devotee of Krishna, at the same time, keeps his material attachment, then Krishna's business is He takes away everything material, so that cent percent he becomes, I mean to say, dependent on Krishna. So that actually happened to my life. I was obliged to come to this movement to take up this very seriously. And I was dreaming that "Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura is calling me, "Please come out with me!" So I was sometimes horrified, "Oh, what is this? I have give up my family life? Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura is calling me? I have to take *sannyasa*?" Oh, I was horrified. But I saw several times, calling me. So anyway, it is by his grace I was forced to give up my family life, my so-called business life. And he brought me some way or other in preaching his gospel.

So this is a memorable day. What he desired, I am trying little bit, and you are all helping me. So I have to thank you more. You are actually representative of my Guru Maharaja (Srila Prabhupada starts to cry) because you are helping me in executing the order of my Guru Maharaja.

Prabhupadabooks.com
Los Angeles, 13 December, 1973
Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati
Disappearance Day Lecture

KULI CATCHUP: AYU DASA MORGAN

By Mandakini devi dasi

Q. How many years did you attend New Govardhana Gurukula and what do you find particularly memorable?

A. I started school when I was five years old and spent nine years there. I really enjoyed playing different sports and remember looking forward to flood times, when we would ride the rapids on our boogie boards. Raiding the green mangoes and eating them with salt was a highlight. The teachers played a big part in my development, especially Antardvipa prabhu.

Q. How did your life evolve after leaving gurukula?

A. I attended Murwillumbah High School for three years, after which, in 2010, I travelled to the holy *dhamas*. I then returned to Brisbane to study for a Diploma of Music Business. After that I signed up for creative writing and film studies. In 2012–2013 I travelled to Vietnam, Cambodia and India, where I experienced an incredibly awesome Maha Kumbha Mela. Later I went on a seven-month trip to the U.S and Europe. In California I met ‘The Kirtaneers’ and travelled and performed with them.

Q. While visiting India, I understand you were very happy to meet your Brijbasi family?

A. Yes, I am big brother to five. They are a simple Brijbasi family living on the *parikrama* path. We are keeping in touch.

Q. What are you presently doing?

A. I am practising what I have learned. For the past six months, I have been working on Spring Flare. I am part of the New Govardhana festival committee, and this month (December) I am heading to South India to work on a humanitarian documentary relating to the textile trade.

I feel fortunate being part of Srila Prabhupada’s family and to be able to travel and link up with other devotees, especially those with whom I share a creative flare. 

Photograph: Ananta Vrindavana dasa



Ayu dasa Morgan.

SPRING FLARE LIGHTS UP

By Ayu dasa Morgan

The advent of Spring Flare took place in a car ride on the way to Maha Kumbha Mela in Allahabad early last year. Inspired by The Festival of Colours in Utah, Madhav Javeri, co-founder and partner of the festival, suggested that we be the first to replicate one in Australia. We discussed our different areas of expertise and what we could each bring to the table. Madhav has a background in drama and business, while I come from a music business and creative industries background.

Miraculously, we successfully pulled off the festival last year. We had only five weeks to organize everything, after acquiring sponsorship and a venue from the University of Queensland (UQ).

My role as Creative Producer required me to book the bands, establish the

design and artwork as well as manage the stage.

Some of the other boys involved were Yastele Jugmohan and Radha Amaro, who were working on site management, colour sales and budget.

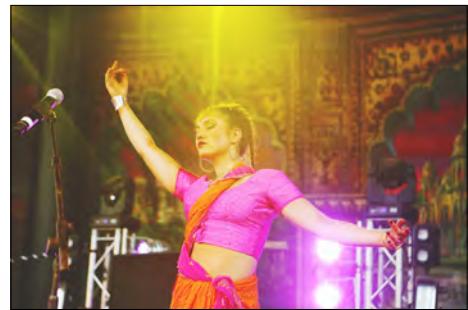
Last year was such a success, pulling in 2 to 3,000 people throughout the day. There was no question of not doing it again!

This year, by Krishna’s arrangement, we received sponsorship not only from the UQ, but from the G20 Cultural Programme and Queensland State Government. This was an amazing opportunity for us, but testing at times, as dealing with bureaucracy can often be.

The event took place at the Brisbane River Stage, one of the country’s premier venues. It was a resounding success, attracting 5 to 6,000 people throughout the day.

I especially wish to mention Madhav and family for their herculean efforts in the execution of this year’s festival, and in particular Madhav’s father.

The performance of Narayana and Kalayani, aka The Willow Beats was the highlight of the day for me, especially when the crowd divided into girls shouting, “Radhe” and boys “Shyama”. 



Kalayani Mumtaz (above) performs at the recent Spring Flare event (below).



BOOK REVIEW: “A LIFE OF UNALLOYED DEVOTION”

*Excerpted from Iskcon News by
Govardhana Seva dasa*

The new two-volume work will give readers an in-depth, personal look at the journey of one of the most beloved devotees in ISKCON – Yamuna Devi, an ISKCON pioneer and one of the first disciples of Srila Prabhupada.



Photo: bhagavadgitasdotcom.wordpress.com

Yamuna passed away on 20 December 2011 at 69, and “Yamuna Devi: A Life of Unalloyed Devotion” is itself a loving offering of devotion.

Before she passed away, Yamuna asked Dinatarini dasi several times to complete her memoirs for her. The result, at 1,080 pages, is an exhaustive and touchingly personal tapestry of Yamuna’s entire life, woven from Yamuna’s own written words. The two volumes—Preparing an Offering of Love, which focuses on Yamuna’s earlier life; and Offering the Gift of Bhakti to Others, which covers her later years—bring more insight and depth into the stories that made Yamuna famous.

Feeling denigrated simply due to her gender, Yamuna left the Krishna Balarama temple project in 1974 to start a women’s *ashrama* in Oregon with her godsister Dinatarini. Upon doing so, she met with criticism from male leaders who said she could never make advancement in spiritual life as she had “left ISKCON” and the association of devotees.

Yamuna wrote to Prabhupada to tell him that she had not left Krishna consciousness or her dedication to him, and to express her fear that she didn’t have his blessings anymore. In 1975, Prabhupada met Yamuna in Los Angeles, and with tears in his eyes, told her that he had missed her very much at the opening of the Krishna Balarama temple.

*The complete Iskcon News article:
<http://iskconnews.org/>*

GURUKULA HOLY PILGRIMAGE

By Anjali DeJager (New Govardhana Gurukula student)

From 2 - 12 November 2014 the Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula went on a holy pilgrimage to Sri Mayapur Dham. This event made history for the *gurukula*, for it was the first time the school had ever travelled overseas. The students, including myself, participated in many devotional activities each day, including *mangal arati*, *japa* sessions, greeting the Deities. On one special occasion, the girls got to polish Radha Madhava’s silver, and the boys, Panchatattva’s shoes!

The school visited different holy places daily, including the Yoga Pitha, Srivas Angan, Chand Kasi’s *samadhi*, Jal Mandir, Vishnu Priya Temple, Jagannatha Temple and Bhaktivinoda Thakura’s house. We were also given a VIP tour of the Temple of Vedic Planetarium. Our schedule was completely full from 4.30 am to around 8.30 pm, making the trip memorable and cherishable for all of us.

On the last day we travelled by boat to a local village to distribute food and blankets to the villagers. After serving six huge pots of *kitchari* and distributing two big bags of blankets, we headed back to the boat for *kirtana*.

When it was time to depart, we were sad, but it was such a wonderful experience that the Gurukula is planning another trip. This is planned to take place in Vrindavana Dham and Rishikesh in approximately 2016.



Students and teachers from New Govardhana circumambulate a replica of Govardhana Hill at Sri Chaitanya Matha, Mayapur, India.



24-hour-kirtana at Srila Prabhupada’s bhajana kutir.



Students polish Sri Sri Radha Madhava’s silver paraphernalia.



Photography: Dhriti Gopi devi dasi

Girls perform go seva at the Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir goshala.

Serving prasadam to hungry local children.

LOCAL DEVOTEES SUPPORT TOVP, MAYAPUR

By Damodara Pandit dasa

It seems that New Govardhana has a special connection with the development of Temple of Vedic Planetarium (TOVP) in Mayapur, India.

The TOVP is the most ambitious project currently under construction in ISKCON. The concept for the Temple was personally inaugurated by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. However it took some 30 years after his demise for the construction to begin.

The TOVP project Director is Sadbhuja dasa, who owns a home in Murwillumbah and visits regularly. Originally from Melbourne, Sadbhuja and his wife, Sri Hari Bhakti dasi, relocated their Australian home base to Murwillumbah in 2007. Sadbhuja has been at the centre of the TOVP development for some 25 years.

Very much instrumental in the development of the TOVP is Antardvipa dasa, who was the Principal of the New Govardhana Gurukula for many years. He was selected, out of many academic



Photography: tovp.org



(L to R) Sadbhuja dasa, Antardvipa dasa and (below) Deva Gaura Hari dasa.

astronomers, to design the planetarium based on the teachings of Srimad Bhagavatam and Surya Siddhanta.

Deva Gaura Hari dasa, who is a New Govardhana Gurukula High School teacher, is also very involved in the acoustics and exhibition side of the TOVP.

Long-term attendee of New Govardhana, Sukla dasi, works very closely with the TOVP team, contributing in the area of design and exhibitions.

The artistic and craft work is headed up by former New Govardhana residents Baskara dasa, Pavarta Muni dasa and Bhakti Vardhana dasa.



Photography: facebook.com

If you would like to know more about the Temple of Vedic Planetarium visit the website tovp.org.

For donations please contact Sri Hari Bhakti dasi on 0431 367 664.



Studio 88

GRAND OPENING

88 MAIN ST, MURWILLUMBAH
| Wed 3rd Dec 5:30 - 9:30pm |

MIXED EXHIBITION FEATURING
LOCAL ARTIST | FASHION DESIGN
GRAPHIC DESIGN | PHOTOGRAPHY
ORACLE LOUNGE LAUNCH
NIBBLIES | GIVEAWAYS | A GRAND
RIBBON CUTTING BY THE MAYOR
CONTACT DAVID BENSON - 0402763291

bliss baby
bliss balls

PRINT PEOPLE



Replicas of the TOVP chandelier being worked on by various former New Govardhana residents.



IN FOCUS

PARAMA PURUSA NITAI DASA

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Pujan Sheth was born in Bombay, India, in 1987. In 2005 he left Bombay and came to Sydney, Australia. While in Sydney he became interested in Krishna consciousness through association with devotees from the Radha Gopinatha temple, North Sydney, where he became a regular attendee. He met and sought the shelter of HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja and received first initiation in February 2010. He was given the name Parama Purusha Nitai dasa.

He spent the next four years based in Sydney, and then moved to Brisbane. Parama has also travelled in India visiting the Chowpati and Juhu

temples near Bombay. He also visited Delhi, Vrindavana and the Baroda temples.

Parama Purusha Nitai came to New Govardhana in January 2014, after seeing a notice about the Bhakti Yoga Course, and decided to stay. He settled down to lots of study in between many services including cooking, cleaning and any other seva that was required.

In September he travelled to the Adelaide temple to receive second initiation from HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja. On his return to New Govardhana he was trained in Deity worship and was added to the *pujari* list, performing *arati* and rendering other services to Their Lordships.

When asked what his ambitions in Krishna consciousness were, he replied, "I would like to develop good consciousness when cooking for Krishna. I would also like to become

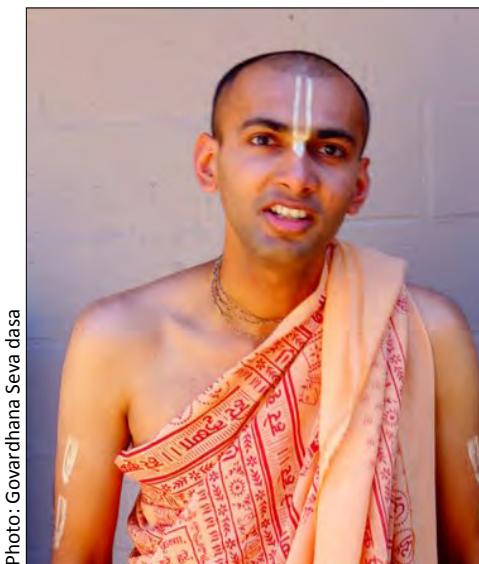


Photo: Govardhana Seva dasa

Parama Purusha Nitai dasa.

proficient in the art of Deity worship and to develop a good taste for chanting. Most of all, I would like to see Krishna in every activity I pursue every day of my life."

SHARNE TO THE RESCUE

By Padma devi dasi

At the women's *ashrama*, now known as the 'Giri Guesthouse', the *brahmacharinis* have recently been receiving some uninvited visitors. Right on time with the seasonal changes, several carpet pythons have taken up residence in the vicinity.

Snakes of all sizes are regularly seen near the *ashrama*, and over the past six weeks, two particularly large serpents have appeared near the entrances to the girl's rooms. Sharne, a resident of the *ashrama*, knew exactly what to do!

Sharne, who took up residence at the *ashram* in May, is one of New Govardhana's cowherd girls, tending daily to our cows. She also helps Dhanesvara dasa maintain the temple gardens and performs several other services. And when it comes to dealing with uninvited reptiles, Sharne is quick on her feet to send them packing.

The two large pythons appeared within a fortnight of one another at the beginning of October. On both occasions, whilst the *ashrama's* *brahmacharinis* were running around



Photo: Padma devi dasi

Thank you, Sharne, from all the residents in the women's ashrama.

screaming, sure-footed Sharne grabbed the snakes by their tails and pulled them out of the doorways. She then picked up a broom and a garden-rake and scooped them up into a container. The slithering visitors were then relocated to nearby Tyalgum.

Carpet pythons are not venomous, but can still bite human beings if provoked, and can also frighten residents and visitors.

If any snakes are seen on the farm, regardless of type, breed or size,

George our regional snake-catcher, advises us not to approach them for any reason. He can be contacted on 0407 965 092 for all your snake emergencies.

WELCOME TO ... JYESTHA DEVI DASI

By Mandakini devi dasi

Jyestha devi dasi arrived from Melbourne on 5 November 2014 to take up residence in the New Govardhana *brahmachari* *ashrama*. She has spent the past four years at the Melbourne ISKCON temple.

With previous experience in the hospitality industry, Jyestha was responsible for organising and co-ordinating festivals and special events, especially marriages.

She was also active with the life membership program, besides helping with paraphernalia services.

Her skills and expertise will be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to New Govardhana, Jyestha.

WELCOME BACK VASU AND DHANISTHA

By Mandakini devi dasi

Welcome to senior devotees and former residents Vasustretha dasa and Dhanista devi dasi, who have recently returned to live at New Govardhana.

Vasu is helping with Deity services while continuing to work part-time with his picture-framing business. He is also a very welcome addition to the class roster.

Dhanista, who was formerly the head *pujari* at New Govardhana, is a qualified nurse who works part-time at her profession.

Since returning, she has most enthusiastically taken up Deity dressing services on the roster.



SNAPSHOTS



Photo: Trevor Gore

Gopastami was celebrated with Govardhana (L) and Radhika (R) being brought to the temple, with Urvashi devi dasi dressing for the occasion.



Photo: Damodara Pandit dasa



Photo: Damodara Pandit dasa

(L to R) Look who turned up at the New Govardhana prasadam hall recently ! Devotees chanting after mangala arati were greeted by this furry friend. The NSW Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service Inc (WIRES) relocated him back to a suitable gum tree later in the morning.



Photo: Chaitanya dasa

(Above) Mad Hatter birthday party was held recently for Padma devi dasi.

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.

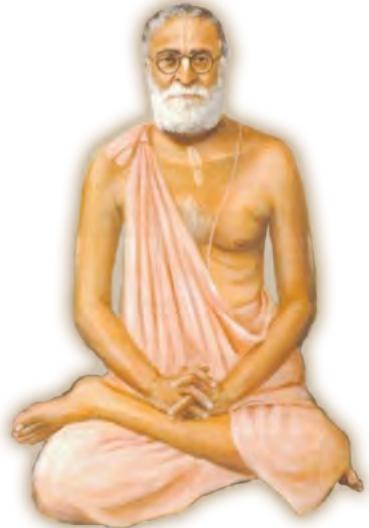


EDITORIAL BOARD:
Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa,
Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP),
Mandakini devi dasi, Urvashi devi dasi (layout and graphic design).
For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact: newgovconch@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Disappearance Day Wednesday, 10 December 2014

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



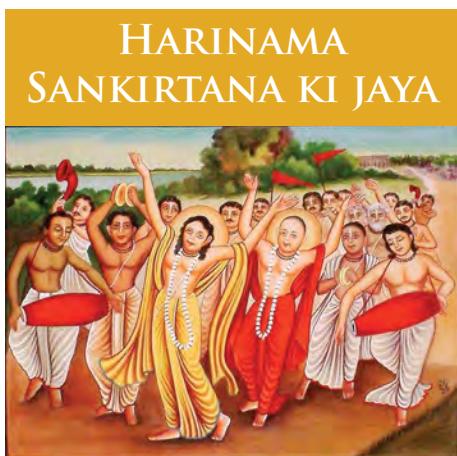
His Holiness Devamrita Swami Friday, 5 to Monday, 8 December 2014

- Srimad Bhagavatam Class
Saturday, 6 & Sunday, 7 December at 7.30 am
Bhakti Centre, Gold Coast
Saturday, 6 December at 6.30 pm
Sunday Feast lecture
7 December at 4.30 pm



His Holiness Prahladananda Swami Monday, 8 to Monday, 15 December 2014

- Srimad Bhagavatam Classes
Tuesday, 9 to Monday, 15 December at 7.30 am
Sunday Feast Lecture
14 December at 4.30 pm



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay *harinama* at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information, contact
Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

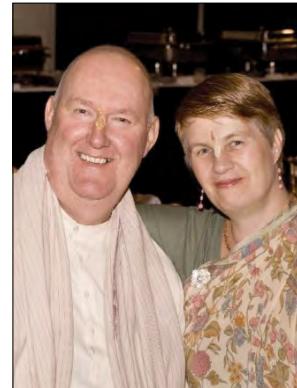
Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast
folkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

Bhakta dasa & Bhakti dasi Saturday, 28 November to Wednesday, 3 December 2014

ISKCON Australia's Communication Officer,
Bhakta dasa will visit New Govardhana to present the upcoming celebration of ISKCON's 50th Anniversary in 2016



DECEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

2 Tue	Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
3 Wed	Dvadasi
4 Thu	Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi
10 Wed	Tryodasi break fast 5.41 am – 10.18 am
18 Thu	Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami – Disappearance
19 Fri	Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
20 Sat	Sri Devananda Pandita – Disappearance
23 Tue	Dvadasi break fast 5.44 am – 10:23 am
25 Thu	Sri Mahesa Pandita – Disappearance
	Sri Uddharana Datta Thakura – Disappearance
	Sri Locana Dasa Thakura – Appearance
	Srila Jiva Gosvami – Disappearance
	Sri Jagadisa Pandita –Disappearance