

THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

NEWSLETTER

of New Govardhana Community

March 2013



krishnafarm.com

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

THE APPEARANCE OF SRI CAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

Extracted by Damodara Pandit dasa

In the Sri Caitanya Caritamrta by Krishna das Kaviraj, we read of the all auspicious appearance of Lord Caitanya. The following verses are extracted from Adi Lila, Chapter 3.

Lord Caitanya has appeared in Navadvipa (West Bengal, India). He has the shoulders of a lion, the powers of a lion and the loud voice of a lion. May that lion be seated in the core of the heart of every living being. Thus, with His resounding roar, may He drive away one's elephantine vices. In His early pastimes He is known as Visvambhara because He floods the world with the nectar of devotion, and thus saves the living beings. In His later pastimes He is known as Lord Sri Krishna Caitanya. He blesses the whole world by teaching about the name and fame of Lord Sri Krishna. The luster of His expansive body resembles molten gold. The deep sound of His voice conquers the thundering of newly assembled clouds. His arms are long enough to reach His knees. His eyes are just like lotus flowers. His nose is like a sesame flower and His face is as beautiful as the moon. He is peaceful, self-controlled and fully devoted to the transcendental service of Lord Sri Krishna. He is affectionate toward His devotees. He is gentle and equally disposed toward all living beings. He is decorated with sandalwood bangles and armlets and anointed with the pulp of sandalwood. He especially wears these decorations to dance in Sri Krishna *sankirtana*.

In His early pastimes, He appears as a householder with a golden complexion. His limbs are beautiful, and His body, smeared with the pulp of sandalwood, seems like

molten gold. In His later pastimes He accepts the *sannyasa* order and He is equipoised and peaceful. He is the highest abode of peace and devotion, for He silences the impersonalist non-devotees.

In the Age of Kali, intelligent persons perform congregational chanting to worship the incarnation of Godhead who constantly sings the name of Krishna. Although His complexion is not blackish, He is Krishna Himself. He is accompanied by His associates,

servants, weapons and confidential companions. By performing the sacrifice of congregational chanting of the Holy Name, learned scholars in the Age of Kali worship Lord Krishna, who is now non-blackish, because of the great upsurge of the feelings of Srimati Radharani. He is the only worshipable Deity for the *paramahansas*, who have attained the highest stage of the fourth order (*sannyasa*). May that Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Caitanya, show us His great causeless mercy.



SRILA JAGANNATHA DASA BABAJI



http://www.iskconharidwar.webs.com/

Srila Jagannatha dasa Babaji Maharaja 'Vaisnava Sarvabhauma' (best of the Vaisnavas) who confirmed the actual birthplace of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, by jumping out of the basket he was being carried in due to old age, exclaiming "This is indeed the birthplace"

by Mandakini devi dasi

13 March marks the anniversary of the disappearance of Jagannatha dasa Babaji. His Divine Grace took his birth in a small village in Bangladesh in 1776 and disappeared from our mortal sight in 1894.

Taking *diksha* from Jagadananda Gosvami, he later accepted *babaji* initiation from Madhusudana dasa Babaji .

He met Bhaktivinoda Thakura in 1880 and became his spiritual master. He also initiated Gaura Kishore dasa Babaji, who later became the initiating guru of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta.

Devoted to Lord Caitanya, Jagannatha dasa Babaji spent his last days in Navadvipa and Vrindavana, performing *bhajana* and chanting *japa*.

An integral part of The Gaudiya Vaisnava Guru Parampara, Bhaktivinoda Thakura referred to him as, 'The Commanding Chief of the Devotees'.

THE APPEARANCE OF BHAKTISIDDHANTA

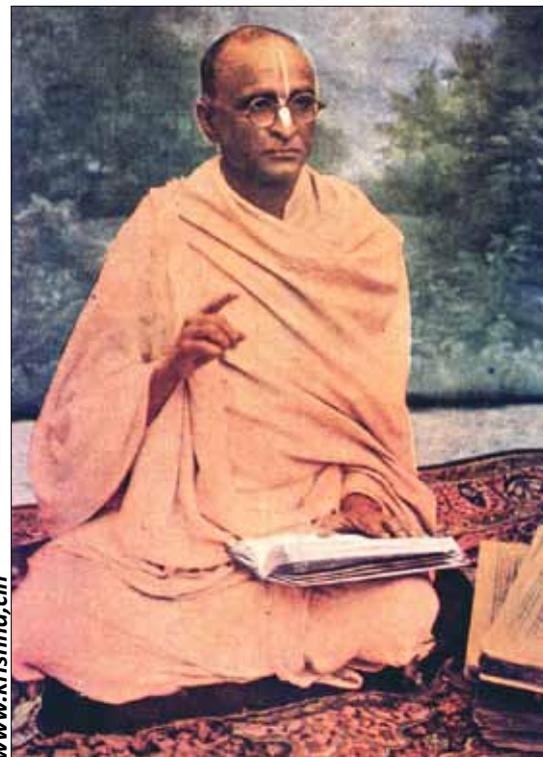
by Mandakini devi dasi

Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura fervently prayed to Lord Jagannatha to send someone to assist him in presenting the teachings of Lord Caitanya to the English-speaking world.

In 1874, his prayers were answered with the appearance of a son, Bimala Prasada. This auspicious birth anniversary falls on 2 March, this year.

An extraordinary soul, he became a scholar of the highest calibre, excelling in Sanskrit, mathematics and astronomy. In recognition of his scholastic achievements, he earned the title Siddhanta Sarasvati.

Taking *sannyasa* in 1918, he organized 64 Gaudiya Vaisnava branches in India, with Sridhama Mayapura as the headquarters. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami Maharaja was famous for his acute intellect and fiery preaching.



www.krishna.cin



bingimages.com

AC Bhaktivedanta Swami and his son visit with His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Maharaja Prabhupada

His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Maharaja Prabhupada, spiritual master of AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. It was on Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaja's order that Srila Prabhupada travelled to the western countries in 1965 to propagate the chanting of Hare Krishna.

WONDERFUL DAYS

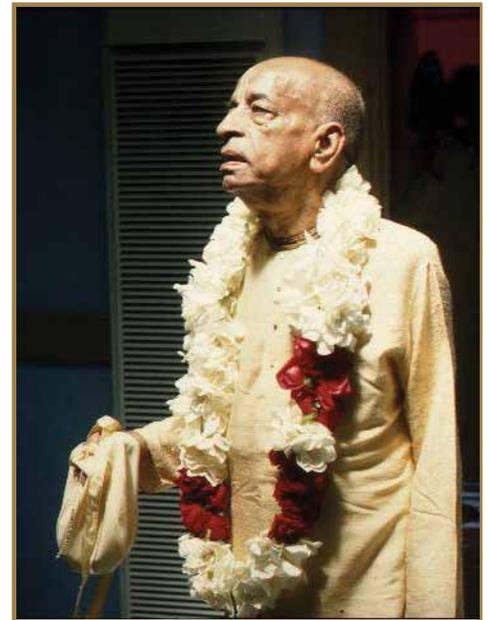
by *Parama Karuna dasa*

The *sankirtana* party formed a circle on the footpath near the beachfront of Byron Bay. The freshness of the ion-charged air and the dark hues of the rain clouds combined with the ocean breezes to create an electrifying atmosphere with which to rejoice in the chanting of the Holy Names. Despite the lack of beachgoers we enthusiastically sang and danced, witnessed by the occasional passer-by and hundreds of seagulls.

A young family with two children attired in swim suits and towels was drawn to the festive mood. The two young girls jinked and swirled and smiled, shyly coming forward, their souls wishing to enter the devotees' circle; only caution of the unfamiliar restraining them. The whole family beamed and thanked us. The girls continued dancing and glancing all the way down the street.

A police car that had driven by minutes before reappeared and stopped. Ben and Hannah, both young officers, spoke, "You seem very joyful. What are you doing?" After a brief explanation of the *yuga dharma*, they asked, "What do you believe?" At the behest of their probing questions the conversation that followed covered the nature of the soul; service and pleasing Krishna; reincarnation; the similarities between all religions rather than the differences; the reason for purity; the abstinence of corrupting elements such as alcohol, drugs, gambling and bodily consciousness. The officers seemed interested to talk of such subject matters which must have provided a great contrast to the dour, mundane and sometimes harsh dealings in policing an uncivilized population. They left, very happy to have learned about and witnessed Lord Caitanya's ecstatic *harinama sankirtana*.

Many thanks to Dylan, Rick, Iko, Sandra, Prem and Vaisnavi devi dasi for participating in our weekly program.



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

"The members of the International Society for Krsna Consciousness should go to India during the birthday ceremony of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu at Mayapur and perform *sankirtana* congregationally. This will attract the attention of all the important personalities in India, just as the beauty, bodily luster and *sankirtana* performance by the associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu attracted the attention of Maharaja Prataparudra."

(Caitanya-Caritamrta Madhya-Lila
11.96 Purport)



L. to R. Bhusaya dasa, Pandu Putra dasa, Parama Karuna dasa and Sanatana dasa

INDRANI ARRIVES AMID FLOODS OF EXCITEMENT



Rukmini gave birth to Indrani 28 January 2013, during the flood. She got off to a shaky start, unable to stand properly owing to the pen floor being saturated by torrential rain. She sustained minor abrasions in her attempts to stand, but with the assistance of the cowherds, she has recovered fully. She can be seen most days in the fields frolicking with Nitai, born to Malika a few weeks before.



L. to R. Indrani and Nitai
Indrani has been sponsored by Sharne.
If you would like to sponsor one of Krishna's cows please contact
Urvasi devi dasi
newgovconch@gmail.com

Photographer unknown

Urvasi devi dasi

Urvasi devi dasi

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA !

by *Padma devi dasi*

“Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna . . . “
On Sunday 3 February, residents and visitors to Broadbeach on the Gold Coast were treated to an *harinama* with devotees and WWOOFers making up a procession of 30 participants.

The clear skies, the cool ocean breezes and the smiling faces of the onlookers contributed to a very enjoyable time for all. Isvara dasa, who has been organising and heading up New Govardhana’s mobile *harinama* for the past four years, said that the regular Sunday *harinamas* usually attract 12 to 25 devotees. Occasionally one or two



Padma devi dasi

Devotees on harinama at Broadbeach lead by Radha Madhava dasa

NEW GOVARDHANA DEVOTEE SKILLS REGISTER

by *Padma devi dasi*

Since the inauguration of New Govardhana farm in 1977, it has become clear to both devotees and visitors alike that there exists an unusually high degree of talent and ability within our local devotee population. Over the past 35 years, devotees within the New Govardhana district have designed and created this entire devotional community by using, for the most part, our own skills, knowledge and ingenuity.

In order to preserve what we have so far achieved and to further develop our community, New Govardhana management has designed a Devotee Skills Register (DSR) which will be available for all community members to access. The DSR will contain listings of any types of work skills; knowledge; devotional service experience; tertiary qualifications, and talents that individual devotees in our regional area may possess. All community members are thereby encouraged to submit details of their own skills to the DSR.

Please give this New Govardhana initiative your full co-operation by subscribing to the DSR and help us to show Srila Prabhupada how we can further our spirit of co-operation with each other in spreading this Krsna consciousness movement. Further details, including how to submit to the DSR will soon be circulated in an email. To express your interest, please contact devoteeskillsregister@gmail.com. Kindly include your name, contact details and skills.



Padma devi dasi

Gia-ru Lin (left) one of the WWOOFers participating in the harinama procession

New Govardhana WWOOFers will join the *harinama* team, but on this particular occasion six WWOOFers joined the devotees, singing and dancing in ecstasy.

Some onlookers, including an elderly Chinese gentleman, also became enthused by the *kirtana* and danced with joy amongst the *harinamers*. This is the potency of Krishna’s Holy Names. Anyone, at any time, can become submerged in the transcendental sound vibration and experience genuine happiness.

The pure devotional chanting of Lord Krishna’s personal names ushers the devotee into the Lord’s personal presence.

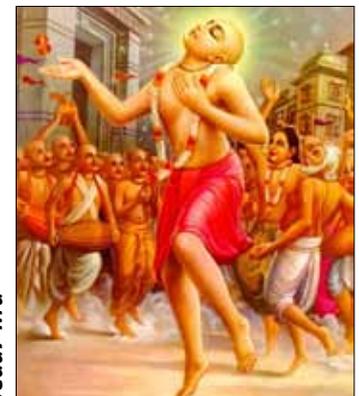
“Dealings in affection with the Supreme Personality of Godhead brings happiness many millions of times greater than dealing with Him in awe and veneration. Simply by hearing the Holy Name of the Lord, the devotee is merged in transcendental bliss.”

(“*Sri Namamrita*”, Introduction)

In addition to the traditional musical instruments played on *harinama*, namely *karatalas* (small hand cymbals) and *mrdangas* (two headed drums), Isvara’s *harinama* team also play guitars and a portable harmonium.

These instruments add melodious sounds to the rhythm instruments. All devotees and WWOOFers are invited to join the *harinama* on Sundays. Please contact Isvara Prabhu for details.

folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549



veda74.ru

SAM I AM

by Govardhana Seva dasa

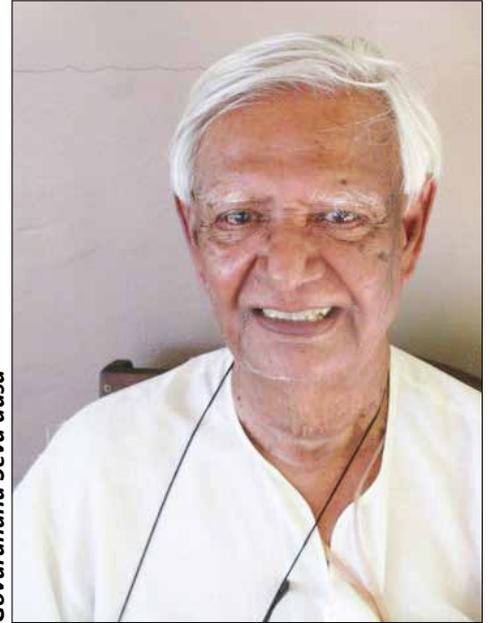
Sam is a regular visitor to New Govardhana.

His full name is Sampangi Venkachalata Rao. He was born 86 years ago, in the town of Vijayapura in the Bangalore District of India. Now, since his retirement in 1992, he spends six months in Australia and six months in Bangalore every year.

He first came to Australia in 1964, after studying in America, to take up a teaching position in Management Theory at the Political Science Department of the University of Tasmania. He also travelled to continue his studies, and amongst his qualifications are a BA (Hons), an MA (First Class), an MPA and a PhD from Cornell University. He left America just before Srila Prabhupada arrived there, and during his life their paths never crossed.

Sam has been an ISKCON devotee since 1984 after visiting the Sandy Bay temple in Hobart. He has been a devotee of Krishna all his life, coming from many generations of Hindu Brahmanas in the Shringeri tradition of Shankaracarya.

He loves to visit New Govardhana, where he is always treated as a long-time friend.



Govardhana Seva dasa

Sam Venkachalata Rao

GURUKULA HALL AND ARTS CENTRE



Located near the Gurukula,
the new Hall and Arts Centre is available for hire

Ready for use for your next function.

Whether through celebration, education, entertainment, or meditation, the Gurukula Hall & Arts Centre provides a sanctuary for life-enriching experiences.

Website: ghac.com.au

Email: admin@ghac.com.au

Phone: 0427091364

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch must contain 200 words or less and must be supplied in either MS Word format or typed directly into the body of an email. Photos must be submitted in JPG format.

All articles and photos must be sent to newgovconch@gmail.com between the 1st and 14th of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Mandakini devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

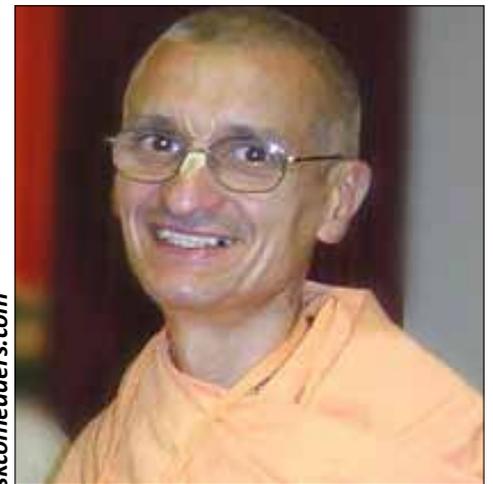
For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact www.theconchnewsletter.org

HH JANANANDA SWAMI VYASA PUJA

by Ganga devi dasi

On Saturday 2 February, a Vyasa Puja ceremony was held at the home of Pandu Putra dasa and Ganga devi dasi in Murwillumbah. Approximately 25 people attended the service, which was conducted by Dandakaranya dasa. He was ably assisted by Parama Karuna dasa and Pandu Putra dasa. The Vyasa Puja was followed by moving homages and personal stories.

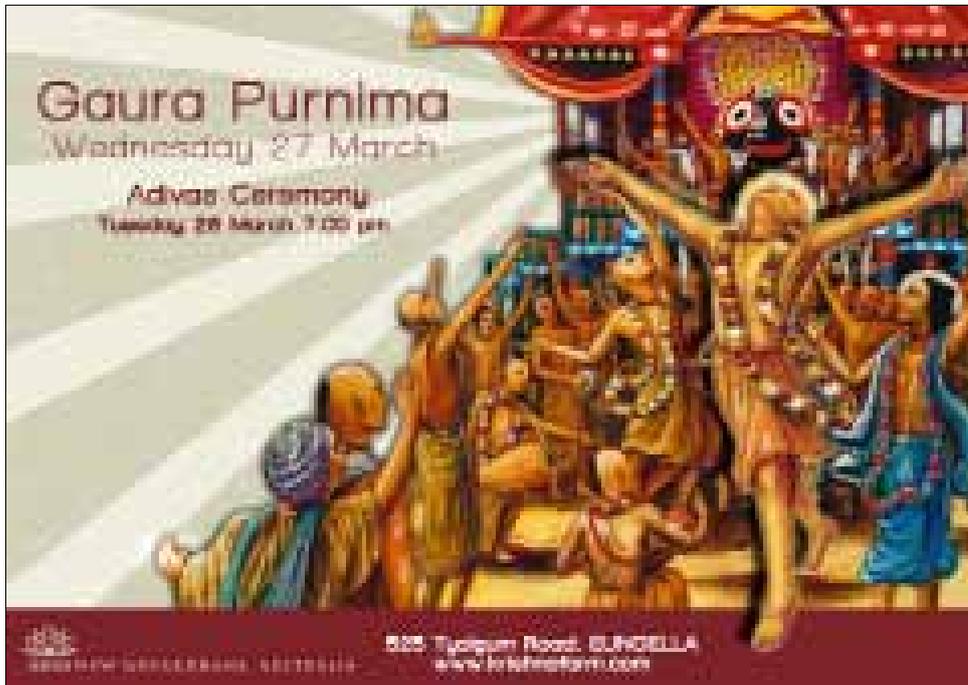
The evening concluded with relishable prasadam.



iskconleaders.com

HH Janananda Goswami

UPCOMING EVENTS ...



Information & Puja sponsorship Dandakaranya dasa 0450 965 992

Kalash Sponsorship Guru Prasad devi dasi 0417 130 191

Accommodation Bookings Mahesvari devi dasi

For those who would like to help with the preparations for the festival please call Dandakaranya Prabhu 0450 965 992

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information

Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings

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

Adivas Ceremony

Tuesday 26 March 7.00 pm

Gaura Purnima Program

Wednesday 27 March

7.30 am Greeting Deities

8.00 am Srimad Bhagavatam Class

10.00 am Harinama in Surfers Paradise

3.00 pm Bhajanas/Cultural presentations

3.45 pm Gurukula Play

4:15 pm Bathing of Lord Caitanya

5:00 pm Class on Gauranga Lila - HH Hanumat Presaka Maharaja

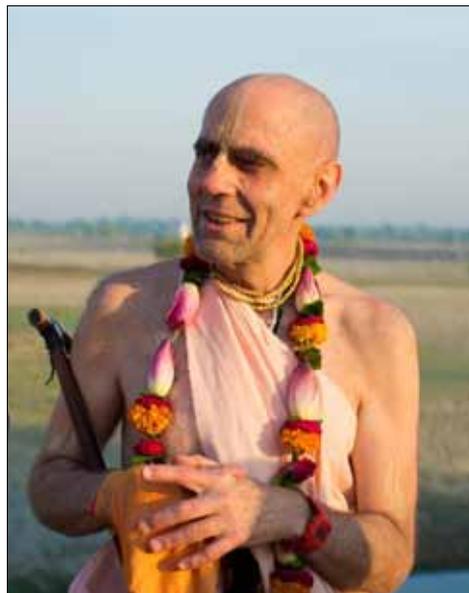
6:00 pm Offering of gifts to Lord Caitanya (*please bring a gift**)

6.30 pm Gaura Arati

7.15 pm Feast

*Suggested Gifts for Lord Caitanya

Honey, saffron, jewellery, fruit & vegetables, etc.



HH Hanumat Presaka Swami will be visiting New Govardhana for the first time.

He arrives late afternoon Monday, 25 March after programs in Sydney.

He will give "Light of the Bhagavata" four-part seminar on Tuesday, 26 and Thursday, 28 March at 7.30 am and 5.00 pm.

He will present "Gauranga Lila" on Gaura Purnima at 5.00 pm.

Maharaja departs for Brisbane on Friday, 1 April after lunch.

MARCH CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calender www.vaisnavacalender.com)

2 Sa Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura -- Appearance

8 Fr Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Vijaya Ekadasi

9 Sa Dvadasi Break fast 06:43 - 10:52 (DST)
Sri Isvara Puri -- Disappearance

11 Mo Siva Ratri

13 We Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji -- Disappearance

23 Sa Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Amalaki vrata Ekadasi

24 Su Dvadasi Break fast 06:51 - 10:52 (DST)
Sri Madhavendra Puri -- Disappearance

27 We Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast today)

28 Th Festival of Jagannatha Misra

PREPARING FOR A CATERING EVENT (BLUESFEST)



Krishna Gana dasa

by Govardhana Seva dasa

The Bluesfest is a five-day festival, which will be held this year from 28 March to 1 April. This is a major event in the New Govardhana catering service calendar, and requires considerable forward planning.

First, there is a comprehensive application procedure. This includes proof of essential licences and the payment of substantial fees.

Then there is the preparation of the nine metre travelling kitchen and all the extensive equipment needed. About 12 to 14 workers will volunteer their services for the five days.

Govindas attracts huge crowds at BluesFest each year

The core group will work from 7.30 am to 2.00 am each day, for the whole five days. They will rise early to chant their rounds.

Purchase of the produce needed for the five days includes up to 1.5 tonnes potatoes, 800 kg carrots, 500 kg rice and 450 kg flour. Many other items are also required for the *prasadam* preparation. Salads will be introduced for the first time this year.

Particular favourites are the *kofta* balls (in the past, up to 65,000 have been sold during the five days) together with nine to ten thousand feast plates.

The rewards for this entire endeavour are the favourable reactions from everyone when they taste the preparations. Many people are visibly moved by their experience of *prasadam*, and the fact that it is identified with the Krishna Conscious movement is always gratifying. Also, the profits help towards financing New Govardhana and its upcoming projects.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE VACANCIES

MILK MANAGEMENT

This service entails preparation and allocation of milk to various cooks, as well as making yoghurt, condensed milk and paneer.

Fringe benefit: Regular supply of milk products for yourself and family.

Contact Venu Gopal dasa for details 0411 444 934

GOVARDHANA PARIKRAMA GARDENER

Great Opportunity

If you want to create, beautify and maintain the development of the New Govardhana Parikrama Path and gardens, this service is for you !

For a full seva description please contact Maha Mantra dasa 0413 669 345

WORM FARM MANAGER

Worm seva definitely requires rolling up your sleeves. This project is still in its early stages and needs someone to love the worms unconditionally !

For further details, please contact Venu Gopal dasa 0411 444 934.

TEMPLE GARDENER

All the hard work has already been done by Dhanesvara Prabhu. Last year he conducted a major makeover of the temple gardens. This seva position requires someone to maintain and develop further beautification of Krishna's temple grounds.

For further information please contact Dhruvananda dasa for details 0423 014 634



Answers from last months crossword puzzle

***2 Across: Blue; 3 Across: Jahnava; 5 Across: Virabhadra; 6 Across: Cidahi; 7 Across: Ekachakra; 8 Across: Nitai
1 Down: Jagai; 2 Down: Balarama; 4 Down: HadaiPandit***