

Issue May 2017



THE CONCH

www.conch.org.au

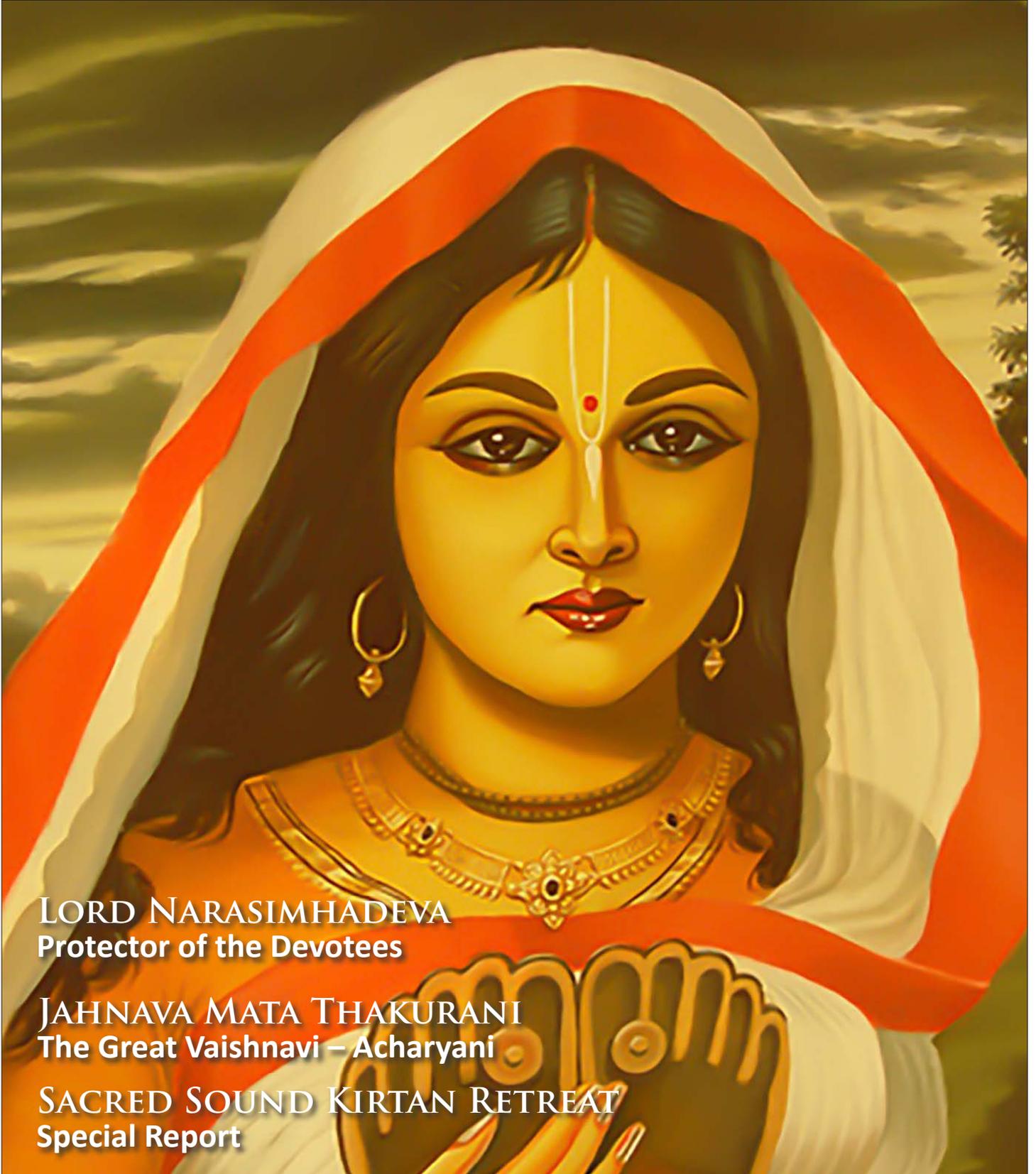
“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

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



LORD NARASIMHADEVA
Protector of the Devotees

JAHNAVA MATA THAKURANI
The Great Vaishnavi – Acharyani

SACRED SOUND KIRTAN RETREAT
Special Report

IN FOCUS + WEDDING BELLS + GOSHALLA FUNDRAISING

JAHNAVA MATA THAKURANI

By *Nimai Pandit dasa*

On Wednesday 3 May, we celebrate the appearance of Sri Jahnava devi, the wife of Lord Nityananda.

In the Sri *Gaura-ganoddesha-dipika* (verses 65–66) by Sri Kavi Karnapura, it is described that Lord Balarama's two wives Varuni and Revati became Vasudha and Jahnava, the two wives of Nityananda Prabhu, in *Caitanya-lila*.

Both of them were the daughters of Surya Dasa, who was as effulgent as the sun. According to another opinion, Jahnava was the incarnation of Ananga Manjari. Both these opinions are possible, as we have shown that more than one identity can be joined in associates of Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

"I offer my respectful obeisances to Sri Jahnava-devi, Lord Nityananda's dear wife. To the people she gives the precious jewel of devotional service. In this way she stops the three miseries of material existence." (*Sri Bhakti-ratnakara*, Eleventh Wave, by Sri Narahari Cakravati Thakura.)

Jahnava's father was Surya Dasa Pandit [Sarakhela] and her mother's name was Bhadravati. Surya Dasa's home is in the village of Shaligrama, which is not far from Navadwipa.

Surya Dasa Pandit held an important post in the service of the king of Gauda, as a result of which he was given the title 'Sarakhela' ('commander').

Virabhadra Goswami, the son of Vasudha Devi, was inundated with Jahnava Mata's mercy, becoming her direct initiated disciple. Nityananda Dasa writes in his *Prema-vilasa* that when Virabhadra saw Jahnava-devi in a four-armed form that his mind was changed and he decided to accept her as his *diksha-guru*.

Without the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu's energy Jahnava-devi, no one is able to cross over the ocean of material life, nor can one obtain the service of Nityananda Prabhu and enter into the loving service of His worshipable Gaurahari and Radha Krishna. Jahnava was present when Narottama Dasa Thakura held a great festival at Kheturi village

to install five sets of Radha-Krsna Deities and Deities of Mahaprabhu and Visnu-priya devi. The installation of the Deities took place under her direction, as she was the senior-most personality there and guest of honour.

She also supervised and personally participated in the cooking of the first offering and made the first offering to the Deities. She served the *prasada* to the assembled *mahantas*. Even though the Panca-tattva had left this world many years prior to this festival, they all appeared and danced wildly in the *kirtana*.

Jahnava Mata is a *mahanta* (Acharyani) and as stated in the *Sri Caitanya-caritamrta*, all the devotees who are followers of Jahnava Mata are counted within the list of Sri Nityananda Prabhu's devotees. This makes her and her line a bonafide branch of the Chaitanya tree. 🙏

Sources:

Sri Bhakti-ratnakara, by Sri Narahari Cakravati Thakura.

Sri Gaura-ganoddesha-dipika by Sri Kavi Karnapura.

Kalyana-kalpa-taru, by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura.

Lives of the Vaishnava Saints, Steven Rosen.

The Associates of Sri Chaitanya, by Swami B.B. Tirtha.



(Above) Painting of Sri Jahnava Mata and (below) where she would perform her bhajana at Radha Kunda, near Vrindavana, in India.

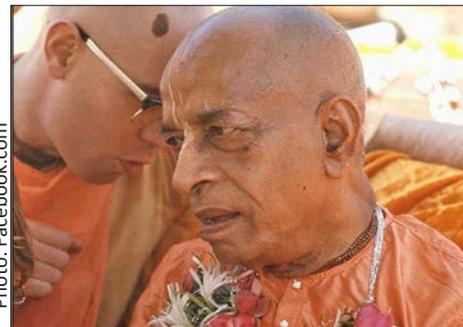
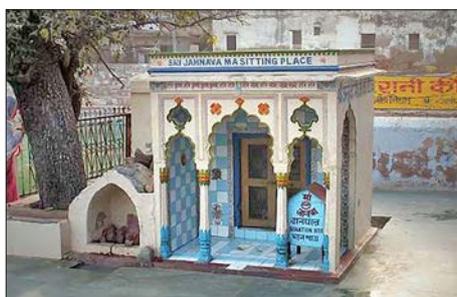


Photo: Facebook.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Lord Nrsimhadeva appeared for the benefit of all human society, not only for Prahlada's personal benefit. The fierce form of Lord Nrsimhadeva may appear most awful to a nondevotee, but to the devotee the Lord is always affectionate as He is in other forms.

Conditioned life in the material world is actually extremely fearful; indeed, a devotee is not afraid of anything else. Fear of material existence is due to false ego. Therefore the ultimate goal of life for every living entity is to attain the position of being servant of the servant of the Lord.

The miserable condition of the living entities in the material world can be remedied only by the mercy of the Lord. Although there are so-called material protectors like Lord Brahma and the other demigods, or even one's own father, they are unable to do anything if one is neglected by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. However, one who has fully taken shelter of the Lord's lotus feet can be saved from the onslaught of material nature.

Therefore every living entity should be unattracted by material so-called happiness and should take shelter of the Lord by all means. That is the mission of human life. To be attracted by sense gratification is simply foolish.

Srimad-Bhagavatam
Canto 7 Chapter 9
Introduction

HEROES OF THE FLOOD

By Krishnarupa devi dasi

It was bigger than the 1954 and 1988 floods as Cyclone Debbie cut a devastating swathe throughout the Tweed Shire, with much of the area (including Murwillumbah) under heavy water. Lives were tragically lost and valuable property ruined.

Devotees lost businesses and some had their homes and belongings seriously water damaged. New Govardhana also endured serious flooding, with Krishna Village inundated, fencing wrecked and the animals in danger.

As we often see when tragedy strikes, heroes emerge. New Govardhana devotees went into action and provided delicious hot *prasadam* all over town for some days. Being a recipient of this *prasadam*, when you are struggling trying to do flood clean-ups, it was a blessing. My neighbours were delighted to receive a home delivery, thanks to Lokesvari devi dasi.



Photography Trevor Gore

Devotees spread the mercy – hot prasadam on the go post Cyclone Debbie.

There were many members of our devotee community who went out of their way to help people, such as Shyama McCrae, who kindly offered to help me if I needed some assistance; to Rupa Charana dasa and the four Mayapur Gurukula graduates who lugged an enormously heavy log back to its rightful place in my backyard and who had also been distributing *prasadam* with Krishna Gana dasa and others like Yasoda devi dasi, to Sridasa Johnson from DAS Construction, who helped many with his pressure cleaner. I was also told he drove around South Murwillumbah collecting floating gas bottles and also



helped people in Railway Street who were hit badly by the flood.

On the farm, Mal Knights and his colleagues demonstrated great leadership qualities when Krishna Village was completely flooded out, and of course Ajita dasa, who was leading with his usual gusto. Other devotees in town shared their evening meals, washing machines – and consoling hugs.

For those not mentioned specifically here, on behalf of other flood victims, I extend a heartfelt thank you! 🙏

SACRED SOUND KIRTAN RETREAT 2017

By Anjali de Jager (Bhaktivedanta Gurukula, New Govardhana)

The second annual Sacred Sound Kirtan Retreat, held from the 14–17 of April 2017, was another great success, with hundreds of people from all around the world coming together to share a weekend full of dancing, ecstatic *kirtanas* and *prasadam*.



Kosa Rupa devi dasi and Anjali de Jager at the 2017 Sacred Sound Kirtan Retreat.

With special guests such as His Holiness Indradyumna Swami, Bada Hari dasa, Sri Prahlada dasa, Madhava and Jahnvi Jivana devi dasi, the festival was full of excitement and many had been anticipating the event for weeks.

Each day started with class by Indradyumna Swami. He spoke on the teachings of Srila Haridasa Thakura over four days and instructed devotees on the importance of learning about such great personalities. This was followed by a four-hour morning *kirtana* session,

lunch and then the famous evening *kirtana*, which included stage-diving, crowd surfing and enthusiastic devotees chanting and dancing for up to five hours non-stop.

Many talented musicians played alongside the kirtaneers each day, using instruments such as saxophone, trumpet, violin and guitar – all contributing to the overall effect of the *kirtana*.

Another aspect that contributed to the success of the retreat was the “Krishna Kids” activity area in which Dhriti Gopi devi dasi headed. The idea was to engage the younger generations in creative and fun-filled devotional activities and games, leaving them with a positive outlook at being at the temple and creating many good memories for them to carry around throughout their lives.

On the final day of the retreat, a Vyasa Puja was held for Indradyumna Swami, which brought many of his disciples and aspiring disciples together to celebrate. With many heartfelt offerings and tears, it became the perfect ending to the Sacred Sound Retreat. 🙏



Photography: Trevor Gore

Kirtana at the recent Sacred Sound Retreat at New Govardhana.

IN FOCUS: BHAKTA OWEN

By Mandakini devi dasi

New Govardhana resident Bhakta Owen Maher recalls having an unusual dream in 2015. In this dream, a disembodied hand was extended towards him offering a *Bhagavad-gita*. He had not previously seen any devotees or any devotional literature. When he woke up, he googled 'Bhagavad-gita' and was delighted to find out the spiritual significance. Weeks later, while holidaying in Byron Bay, Caranaravinda dasa approached him and handed Owen a *Bhagavad-gita*!

After praying to Krishna for another sign, he returned to his hometown of Umina, NSW, and was thrilled to then meet devotees on the street. He invited them to his home after purchasing a *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. It wasn't long before Owen was chanting *japa* every day.

Owen is also a practical man, with years of experience in his father's



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Bhakta Owen at New Govardhana.

painting and decorating business. He has also been a personal fitness trainer, keen rugby player and spent seven years practising Vipassana yoga. Now living in New Govardhana, he is managing the paraphernalia and *bhoga* rooms and has proved himself to be a good handyman and gardener.

Owen's very supportive parents appreciate his chosen lifestyle and thoroughly enjoy the atmosphere when he and his Gaura Nitai Deities come to visit. With the aroma and taste of *prasadam*, the *maha* flowers placed on his parent's bed each evening and the soothing sprinkles of offered water, Owen has transformed the family home into a spiritual haven.

His mother is reading *Bhagavad-gita* and his sister, who is mother to two young children, has received his gift of chanting beads and bead bag.

"All my energy is here at the farm at the moment and I am fully focused on Krishna consciousness," says Owen. "But I am looking forward to going to India early next year." 🙏

THE STARS & BEYOND

By Mandakini devi dasi

On Sunday mornings, a keen group of seekers meet at The Tea Inn, Tweed Valley Way, Murwillumbah to advance their understanding regarding the sojourn of the soul.

In a pleasant and conducive environment under the qualified guidance of Mohini Murti devi dasi, participants are schooled in the science of astrology coming from the auspicious and bona fide lineage of Sanjay Rath.



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Mohini Murti and her astrology students at the Tea Inn, Tweed Valley Way.

Many of the highly committed attendees commenced their studies in October last year and have now gravitated to chanting *japa* and reading *Bhagavata-gita*.

Mohini explains, "People often initially consult an astrologist to have their charts read because of stresses in daily life resulting from relationships, finance and health. They are naturally looking for assurance and peace of mind."

With careful and sensitive cultivation, she is able to gradually lead them to the broader understanding of Vedic culture and thereby enhance their overall knowledge of existence.

Appreciative students, such as Diana, comment, "I love our meetings and mixing with good people. I believe this understanding can improve the quality of life".

Another member of the group, Pauline says, "I am enjoying exploring other avenues and also the nice friendships".

While Avia comments, "This is an extraordinary system of understanding one's life".

Students are welcomed into the study group at any time. For further enquiries, please call Mohini Murti on 0409 944 551. 🙏



Photography: Aravinda dasa

Mohini Murti devi dasi encourages her astrology students in the art of *japa* meditation.

GO, GOSHALLA SHOP

By Clare Meehan

New Govardhana's cow protection 'Gopal's Goshalla Shop' made its first big appearance at the Sacred Sound festival this year. The shop is open for the Sunday feasts, selling cold drinks and the popular curd burgers. However, it was felt that the cow protection message was lacking.

The recent, highly successful Sacred Sound Retreat held last month at New Govardhana offered a new platform to boost the promotion of the cow protection program run by Venugopal dasa. In the first 20 minutes of the shop being open during the Retreat, the curd burgers sold out and Garuda dasa's and Jhulan devi dasi's delicious cakes flew off the shelves!

There was an exciting new addition to the shop – the Cow Information Desk. The Information Desk included a photograph of each cow, bull and bullock with their name alongside, info sheets on New Govardhana's outlook on cow protection, and details on how the money we raise is spent.



Photo: Clare Meehan

New Govardhana's Cow Protection message at the Goshalla Shop was prominent during April's Sacred Sound Retreat.

The Cow Information Desk successfully engaged people and resulted in a new, one-year sponsorship for our beautiful cow Tulasi. On another note, a group hosted by Maha Mantra dasa donated and planted fruit trees and they intend to start up memberships as well.

Over the Easter long weekend, the shop raised more than \$3000 for the cows, which was a great success. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped the shop run smoothly. 🐮

HIGHER EDUCATION AT NEW GOVARDHANA

By Shanti Parayana dasa

New Govardhana has much to offer in terms of spiritual and philosophical progression – morning *Srimad-Bhagavatam* class, Saturday *Bhagavad-gita* class and Sunday feast programs.

Also available weekday afternoons are classes where you can progress through Krishna consciousness no matter what level you are at. Visitors regularly sit in to hear the philosophy. Starting with a *bhajana* from *Songs of the Vaishnava Acaryas*, the class often gets into discussions allowing new perspectives on the subject. No question ever goes unanswered.

These classes have enabled students to learn basic rules and regulations of Krishna consciousness as well as

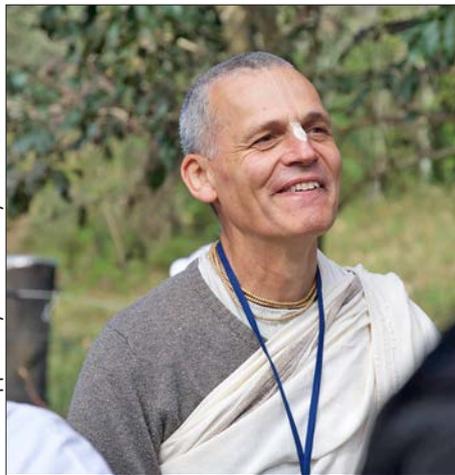


Photo: Supplied by Shanti Parayana dasa

Shanti Parayana dasa at New Govardhana.

deeper philosophy. They learn how to attentively chant and to understand that the normal condition of the soul is to be an eternal servant of Krishna. There is something for everyone to take away.

Bhakta Owen says, "The courses at New Govardhana, such as the *Vaishnava Primer* and *Nectar of Instruction* are great for anyone

interested in the path of devotional service. Throughout each course, I have received the essence and nectar of *bhakti-yoga*. Thanks to these courses, I now have a much greater understanding and love for Krishna consciousness."

Jhulan dasi comments, "Hearing scriptures in devotee association at the end of the day is one of the best things in Krishna consciousness."

"Classes are always entertaining and enlightening, a mix of *bhajan*s, philosophy, personal experiences and deep discussions that help us to become better devotees," says Bhakta Ezra. "It doesn't matter how new or advanced you are, I can guarantee that you will get inspired and enthusiastic about spiritual life."

Keep an eye on the temple noticeboard for upcoming courses. Regular evening courses are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 5pm to 6.30pm.

Everyone is welcome. 🐮

KADAMBA HAIR STUDIO

By Ekadasi devi dasi

Gaura Shakti devi dasi runs a successful business in Murwillumbah, employing a number of devotees with professional hairdressing qualifications. Her spiritual master, His Holiness Jayapataka Swami, had instructed her to open a business to showcase the fact that a Krishna devotee can successfully work in a variety of activities, including business enterprises, while still maintaining high devotional standards.

So how did Gaura Shakti name her hair studio? When she was first opening her business, she thought she would take the first name that she saw in *Krishna Book*. She opened



Photo: Ekadasi devi dasi

The plush new Kadamba Hair Studio reception area in Main Street, Murwillumbah

the book, the summary study of the Tenth Canto of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, and saw the words 'kadamba tree', which is described so lovingly in the songs and stories about Krishna and His transcendental pastimes.

Recently Kadamba Hair Studio moved next door to larger premises, which she and her husband, Phalguna Krishna dasa, had so beautifully refurbished. Fortunately there was not too much damage as a result of Cyclone Debbie hitting Murwillumbah at the end of March 2017.

I visited the new premises and was greeted very warmly. I had a relaxing hair styling experience in Kadamba's beautiful atmosphere. To make an appointment and receive a world-class experience, please ring: (02) 6672 7850. 🙏

WEDDING BELLS RESOUND

Krishnarupa devi dasi

Lalita Ickrath and Narottama dasa celebrated the re-confirmation of their wedding vows on 13 April at scenic Cabarita Beach, followed by a reception and feast at their home in Murwillumbah.

More than 75 guests gathered at the seashore under sunny skies to witness the re-pledging of their 2015 wedding vows. As a long-time friend of both families, I was the 'Master of Ceremonies'; Jahnvi Harrison played her sublime violin; Madhu Manning catered in spectacular style; and Mahananda devi dasi created a striking multi-tiered wedding cake. 🙏



Photography: Srinivasa Luxton

(Above and right) Narottama and Lalita re-confirm their wedding vows at beautiful Cabarita Beach.

ISKCON DISCIPLE COURSE

Krishnarupa devi dasi

On Janmastami 2015, it became ISKCON Law that any member wishing to take either first or second initiation attend the full ISKCON Disciple Course and pass the assessment.

All facilitators must be endorsed and recently Manibandha Gopal dasa and Shanti Parayana dasa have been added to the list. Together with myself, they co-facilitated with approximately 14 students attending.

We encourage any preachers, leaders or managers to also attend the course at the next opportunity as it offers valuable guidance on how to keep



Photo: Krishnarupa devi dasi

ISKCON Disciple Course students immersed in their assessment held in March 2017 at New Govardhana.

ISKCON's Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada at the centre of the movement. It also presents important guidelines on interactions between Vaishnavas and their spiritual masters. 🙏



TOVP UPDATE

By Krishnarupa devi dasi
(Excerpted from tovp.org)

By Krishna's grace the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP) is progressing well with the exterior finishing work on the TOVP continuing without interruption.

In March, containers from Moscow carrying the titanium nitride Chatris and Kalashes arrived. The Kalashes were so well packed to the exact size of the inner container that it took not only the labourers, but also the manager's help to unload it, and one hour to unpack just one box.

Late last month, the blue tile laying began on the small dome of the planetarium wing. Work is progressing rapidly and the tiles are now significantly prominent and can be seen from the main gate of the ISKCON compound.

Photography: Courtesy TOVP.com



(Above and right) Blue tiles on the small dome of the planetarium wing. Work is progressing rapidly and the tiles can now be seen from afar.

Waterproofing of the planetarium dome can also be seen on two grey layers above the blue tiling, while the marble cladding of the temple exterior walls with white marble from Vietnam is ongoing.

For more updates on the progress of this wonderful execution of Srila Prabhupada's order, please visit: www.tovp.org

“My idea is to attract the whole world to Mayapur.”

Srila Prabhupada – 26/6/1976
New Vrindavana, Jayapataka Maharaja



RISING STAR

By Krishnarupa devi dasi

Tara Reissenberger is a rising star, as her name 'Tara' indicates. Recently Tara, 11 years old, won her first tennis award for Tweed District Junior Championships 2017 12 & Under Girls Singles Runner Up. Her coach, Brendan Moore – and her mother, Ganga devi dasi – are very pleased with how well she is doing.

Ganga says, "I am very impressed with Tara's progress. Only four years ago, when she was seven and a half, she was critically injured in a car accident. Part of her femur was crushed and she wasn't able to walk for six months. Now when I see her achievements in her age group in tennis I am so proud of her."

Congratulations from *The Conch* and the New Govardhana community, Tara! 🙏

Photo: Courtesy Ganga devi dasi



Tara Reissenberger with her recent tennis award.



Photo: Clare Meehan

Vaisnavi devi dasi and Caranaravinda dasa are now engaged. Congratulations to the happy couple.

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 gordon108@bigpond.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 and may be rejected without notice.

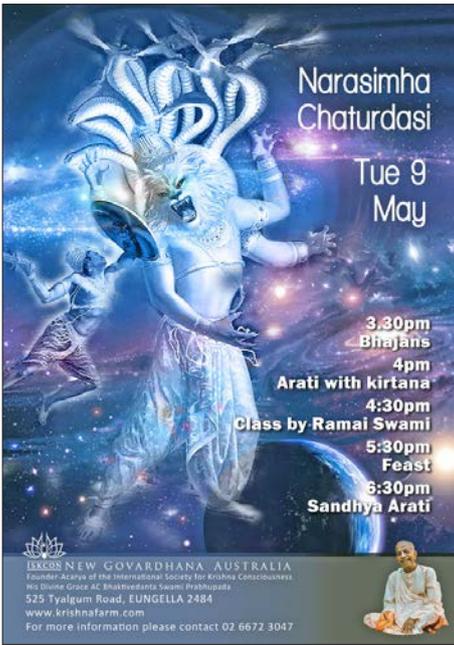


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Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa, Jhulan devi dasi, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Urvasi devi dasi (layout and graphic design).

For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact: www.conch.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



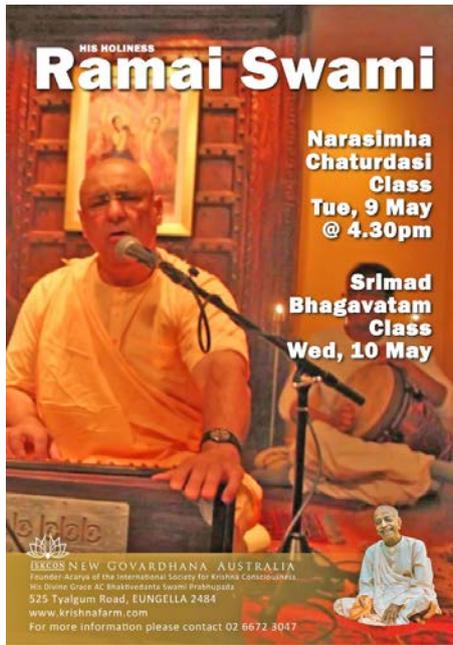
Narasimha Chaturdasi
Tue 9 May

3:30pm Bhajans
4pm Arati with kirtana
4:30pm Class by Ramai Swami
5:30pm Feast
6:30pm Sandhya Arati

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA
Founder: Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness
His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484
www.krishnafarm.com
For more information please contact 02 6672 3047

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His Holiness Ramai Swami

Narasimha Chaturdasi Class
Tue, 9 May @ 4.30pm

Srimad Bhagavatam Class
Wed, 10 May

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His Holiness Ramai Swami 9 & 10 May, 2017

Narasimha Chaturdasi Festival Class
Tuesday, 9 May, 4.30pm
Srimad Bhagavatam Class
Wednesday, 10 May

Please join us each
Ekadasi for
Srimad-Bhagavatam
class given by His Divine
Grace Srila Prabhupada.
These classes will
feature subtitles.

Darshan arati 7am
Class 7.30am

LIFE COACHING AT KRISHNA VILLAGE

Life coaching - not your average class to be offered at an Eco Village... but why? We all need some guidance from time to time, even if we think we are on the right track. For this reason, every Friday afternoon Krishna Village director Henrike Schreer holds a class on life coaching that is accessible to all guests.

Coming from a varied background in political science, tourism, startups

and communications, Henrike completed her diploma in life coaching five years ago, in the middle of a major crisis and shift in her own personal life.

She shares, "I can't imagine anything more rewarding than helping people get [back] on track with their lives, step into their power and be their best selves. In that, I think, I have been my own best client."

Henrike says that the key to her success was "taking 100% responsibility for everything I have in my life right now, knowing that I can change it, if I choose to apply myself. All that I've done in my private life, as a coach, as a mother and in running the Krishna Village has been shaped by this insight."

<http://krishnavillage-retreat.com/blog/2017/3/21/holistic-health-life-coaching-with-henrike>



Henrike Schreer.

Photo: facebook.com

MAY CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 3 Wed Srimati Sita Devi (Consort of Lord Sri Rama) – Appearance
Sri Madhu Pandita – Disappearance
Srimati Jahnava Devi – Appearance
- 7 Sun Ekadasi
- 8 Mon Break fast 6.16 – 9.54 am
Sri Jayananda Prabhu Disappearance
- 9 Tue Nrsimha Caturdasi: Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva (Fast today)
- 10 We Sri Parameswari Dasa Thakura – Disappearance
Sri Sri Radha Ramana Devaji – Appearance
- 11 Thur Sri Madhavendra Puri – Appearance
Sri Srinivasa Acarya – Appearance
- 16 Tue Sri Ramananda Raya – Disappearance
- 22 Mon Ekadasi
- 23 Tue Dvadasi: Break Fast 6.25 – 9.57 am
Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura – Appearance

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA!



Daily at various locations
Contact **Garuda dasa** for details
garuda108das@hotmail.com

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