

September 2013



THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

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

NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community

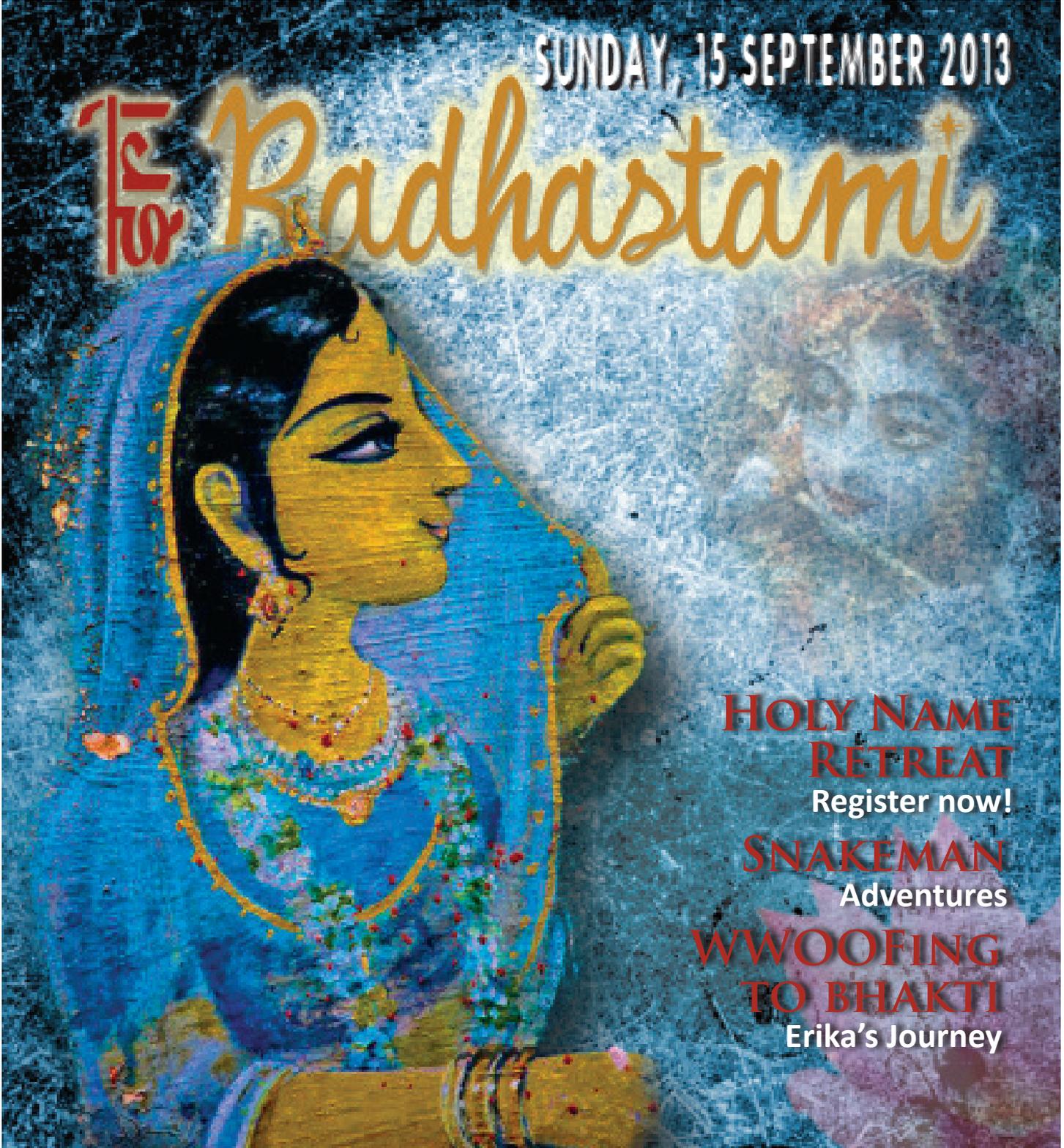


krishnafarm.com

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

SUNDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2013

FOR Radhastami



**HOLY NAME
RETREAT**

Register now!

**SNAKEMAN
Adventures**

**WOOOFING
TO BHAKTI**
Erika's Journey

PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALA GOSS + DEVOTEE PROFILE + BHAKTI SHORT FILM FEST

RADHASTAMI: THE GLORIOUS APPEARANCE DAY OF SRIMATI RADHARANI

By *Ambika devi dasi*

Srimati Radharani made Her divine appearance in Raval, near Varshana, on the eighth day of the bright moon of the month of Bhadra. Although it was the eighth day, the moon became full on this auspicious day.



Image: sagonline.org

**“All beauty and lustre rest in Her body.
All Krishna’s desires rest in Radharani.”**

On this day, King Vrishabhvanu went to bathe in a lake. There, in the centre of the lake he saw a golden lotus flower shining wonderfully. Upon that lotus flower was the effulgent, golden form of Srimati Radharani as a baby.

In jubilation and wonder, he took that transcendental baby home to his devoted wife, Kirtida. They were childless and immediately decided to adopt Her. Srimati Radharani was blind.

Narada Muni soon appeared and informed them of Sri Radha’s divinity. He requested them to perform a name-giving ceremony, which Mother Yasoda and baby Krishna attended. As soon as Srimati Radhika smelled the wonderful fragrance of Krishna, She opened Her lotus eyes and beheld Her eternal Lord.

Srimati Radharani is described in *Caitanya-caritamrita, Adi-Lila Four*, verses 90–98:

“She is the original source of all goddesses of fortune. She fully represents the six opulences of

Krishna. All beauty and lustre rest in Her body. All Krishna’s desires rest in Srimati Radharani.

“Lord Krishna enchants the world, but Sri Radha enchants even Him. She is the full power, and Krishna possesses that power. The two are non-different. Thus Radha and Krishna are one yet have taken two forms to enjoy the mellows of pastimes.”

Radharani embodies *mahabhava* – the essence of Sri Krishna’s pleasure potency. When we chant the *maha-mantra*, we are addressing Her as ‘Hara’ – or ‘She who steals Krishna’s heart by fully inundating Him with Her love’.

Because Radha is filled with compassion, we can approach Her and beg for Her mercy. Radharani can then plead our case with Her transcendental lover, Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

References: *Caitanya-caritamrita Adi-Lila Four, verses 90–98; and recollections of narrations from Braja Mandala Parikramas.* 🕉️



Photo: Trevor Gore

**(Above) Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.
(Below) Srimati Radhika.**



Photo: Trevor Gore



Image: bingimages.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Radharani is 15 days younger than Krishna. When Krishna was a boy, He played with the children of the countryside. Because He was so beautiful, all the girls prayed that someday He would be their husband.

Radha loved Krishna the most, even more than the others. She is the symbol of the greatest worship.

Krishna and the girls were of the same age. Because girls are married earlier than boys, the girls were all married before Krishna. Despite their marriages, the girls all loved Krishna so much that whenever He played His flute, they would leave their homes and go to Him. This continued until Krishna was 16.

At the age of 16, Krishna left His friends and went to live with His real father. All His friends spent the rest of their lives weeping and longing for Him. This, too, is worship.

Radha and Krishna met again during a solar eclipse at Kurukshetra. It was a meeting of love, but they were again separated.

Radha is Krishna’s beloved. By her blessing, Krishna will accept us. ‘Hare’ also means ‘Radha’, so when we chant Hare Krishna we chant Radha Krishna.

Reference: *Srila Prabhupada Radhastami lecture
23 September, 1966*

**“Radharani is hari-priya,
very dear to Krishna. So if we
approach Krishna through the
mercy of Radharani, then it
becomes very easy.”**

Cover Image: bingimages.com

2nd Annual

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NEW GOVARDHANA LAUNCHES BHAKTA TRAINING PROGRAM



GOVARDHANA college

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Devotees at New Govardhana officially launched their Bhakta Training Program (BTP), which will run from 1 September until 30 November 2013. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Uddhava Priya dasa, Program Director, says, "Newcomers to the Bhakta Training Program will receive food, clothing, companionship, education, entertainment, religion, science, social interaction, counselling and much more. How could there ever be a better start for one's devotional career?"

"The BTP is incomparable and will always remain in the heart of the participant," he adds.

The BTP offers a three-month intensive program that will help newcomers follow the rules and regulations of devotional service. They can gain realisations about the Deities, chanting, the significance of association with devotees, the importance of street *harinama* and book distribution, and many other aspects of spiritual life.

Whether they are going to stay full-time in the temple or serve as a congregational member, the principles they will learn during the three months of the BTP are invaluable. If the participants can acquire a taste for attending the morning program and for chanting attentive rounds during that time of the day, then their whole devotional future will be strong.

For more information, please contact Uddhava Priya dasa: uddhavapriya.rns@gmail.com or 0061-490 137 463



Photo: Stoka Krishna dasa

(L to R) Gokula Caitanya dasa, Jayananda dasa and Nrsimha Kavaca dasa perform a ceremony for the recent inauguration of the Bhakta Training Program.

NOT JUST A 'SNAKEMAN'

Source: Ugrasrava dasa via Kurma dasa



George (with beard) can be seen behind Srila Prabhupada during the Melbourne Ratha-yatra in 1974.

By Padma devi dasi

Most local devotees have heard about the brave feats of George, the 'Snakeman'. George is the regional snake-catcher, on call for any snake emergencies. During spring and summer, George can receive up to 14 calls per day (the current record) from

distressed persons needing to have a snake removed from their vicinity.

But there is more to George than being a snake-catcher. George has been a Hare Krishna devotee for more than 40 years, beginning his devotional life when Srila Prabhupada graced the shores of Australia in the 1970s.

At that time, George was given the service of being Srila Prabhupada's personal bodyguard and responsible for his safety in general. George has many special memories serving Prabhupada during those early years, and he continues to serve Srila Prabhupada with devotion and care.

For the past decade, George brings Srila Prabhupada's *murti* from his *Vyasasana* in Radha-Govardhanadhari's temple to the Ratha-yatra cart at the bottom of the farm, where Their Lordships Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Lady Subhadra also board the Ratha cart in preparation for the annual Ratha-yatra parade.

Thank you, George, for all of your service rendered over the past 40 years! 🙏



Photo: A thankful Byron Bayite

George holding a 1.5m Eastern Brown Snake he caught in central Byron Bay.

SECOND ANNUAL BHAKTI YOGA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

**3 October 2013 at 6.00 pm
Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah.**

A number of new release devotional short films will be shown. Most of the films have been made by local devotee film makers. Heading the bill is 'Make Vrindavan Villages', which is a film made by HH Bhakti Raghava Swami. The night will include live music and dinner.

Don't miss out – tickets will be available at the door (\$10).

For more information, contact Damodara Pandit dasa
0415 190 313

FROM WWOOFING TO BHAKTI ... THE TRUE STORY OF BHAKTINE ERIKA

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Many of you may remember Erika, a Japanese Willing Worker on Organic Farms (WWOOFer), who stayed at New Govardhana for many months earlier this year.

Like many young people who experience the Krishna lifestyle, she decided to track down the Krishna Temple at her next stop.

In her case, it was the ISKCON Melbourne Mahaprabhu Mandir.

On a recent visit to Melbourne, I was surprised to see her in a sari at the morning program – especially considering it was in the middle of a very cold Melbourne winter. I caught up with her for a brief interview:

DPd: So what are you doing here?

Erika: I now live in the [Melbourne] Temple and do service.



Photo: Source unknown

Bhaktine Erika (right) sits with Visnupadi devi dasi from Chile, South America. Visnupadi was also a WWOOFer who first went to the Melbourne farm three years ago. Last January Visnupadi was initiated by HH Devamrita Swami.

DPd: What do you do?

Erika: I work in the restaurant, clean Srila Prabhupada's House, help with Deity paraphernalia service as well as go on book distribution and *hari-nama sankirtana*.

DPd: Oh, very nice. Did you come to Krishna first through the WWOOFer program at New Govardhana?

Erika: Yes, I did. The program gave me the opportunity to stay with the devotees and experience the lifestyle. I had also visited the Lotus Room in Kings Cross.

DPd: How long will you stay here in Melbourne?

Erika: At least to next April. However, I would like to stay longer. I like being a devotee of Krishna, and Australia is a nice place to serve. 🙏

PUMP REINCARNATION

By *Ajita dasa*

Prior to Ishvara dasa installing the main bore in 1995, a 1936 piston pump supplied the water on New Govardhana.

As part of an overall plan to supply water to the cows and agriculture from sources other than the main bore, the New Govardhana maintenance team has completed the renovation of three piston pumps.

The pumps will be installed on the bank of a newly dug pond below the temple and near the main lake ('Manasi Ganga') and Govinda Kunda. The pumps will be filling tanks to supply water to the cows, the gardens and the lower area of the farm. The dams are also now being raised so they can hold more water. Once the work is completed on the dams, installation of the pumps will begin, which we expect to have completed within three months.

Currently water usage is estimated at 100,000 litres per day when irrigating. The combined volume of water held in the four main ponds after improvements will total around 11 million litres. This plan aims at reducing dependency on the three-phase powered bore pump, which for now provides all the water on the farm – as well as a great deal of anxiety in down times!

The piston pumps are powered by diesel engines, which can be fuelled with used rice bran oil from our Temple kitchen and catering woks once filtered.

Enthusied by this plan, Grantha Priya dasa, who also helps with the cows, volunteered to fully renovate one of the piston pumps and purchase a new diesel motor for it at a cost of \$1600.

We would like to sincerely thank him for his enthusiastic and diligent management of this renovation, as well as the generous funding. 🙏



Photo: Trevor Gore

(Above) A recently repaired water pump. (Below) The Gir herd rests beside Manasi Ganga where New Govardhana gets some of the water required for agriculture and drinking.



RELIEF IN SIGHT

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

Relocating from Melbourne, Gokula Caitanya dasa, Guru Prasad devi dasi and children Vrinda and Shyam became residents of New Govardhana in January this year.

While the kids are absorbed in their studies at *gurukula*, dad is very happily immersed in cow *seva* and Deity worship.

Guru Prasad, as well as being a busy mum, pursues her professional healing career as a myotherapist at a clinic in Murwillumbah.

This remedial therapy incorporates cupping, corrective exercises and dry needling (or trigger-point therapy for the needle-shy). It is a holistic approach that treats the cause as well as the symptoms. To facilitate the treatment, remedial massage is also offered.

Many satisfied patients (ranging in ages from 6 to 85) have found relief from lower back pain, tennis elbow, sciatica, scoliosis, migraine, disc injuries and a host of other ailments.

A member of the Australian Massage Association (AAMT), Guru Prasad offers health fund rebates. At present the clinic is open on Wednesdays from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. With the positive responses so far, Guru Prasad is looking forward to building up her practice to 4–5 days a week. 🙏



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Gokula Caitanya dasa and his wife, Guru Prasad devi dasi, and their daughter Vrinda and son Shyam.



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Gokula Caitanya dasa and his wife, Guru Prasad devi dasi, offer oblations into the fire at their second initiation ceremony held at New Govardhana recently.

Healing Hands



For an appointment, call Guru Prasad on 0417 130 191.

The first 10 devotees who mention this article when booking will receive \$10 off their first treatment.

SNAPSHOTS



Photo: Shyama dasa

Mentioned in the previous issue of *The Conch*: (L to R) Sita devi dasi, baby Ram Vijay and Shyama dasa.



Photo: Trevor Gore

Introducing another new baby, Bhakti Madhuri, daughter of Maha Mantra dasa and Manikuntala devi dasi.



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

The work on the drainage channel from Manasi Ganga into the Parikrama Paddock is almost complete.



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi



Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Abisheka of Lord Balarama and Lord Krishna on Balarama's Appearance Day.

Correction

In the August issue of *The Conch*, we incorrectly captioned the image on page 6 as "Sharmi Scott and Mohini Murti perform at the Bonfire Kirtana night". It should have read "Mallika devi dasi and Mohini Murti".

DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY

By Mukunda Goswami

New Govardhana resident Gokula dasa is building a mud-brick house that is nearing completion. A total of 4500 bricks of 8% cement and 92% local soil, each weighing 20kg and made on site, constitute the four walls of the 160sqm structure. Another 1700 bricks will be made for the floor. Sixteen trusses – all made by Gokula – were in place as of 10 August 2013.

Gokula has also built a non-electric pump for water. He and his wife, Vilasa Manjari devi dasi, use a clothes washing machine that operates entirely without electrics. They exclusively use a Zir non-electric refrigerator.

The couple currently reside in a small, portable house next to the mud-brick dwelling-to-be, which also uses a compost toilet.

All electricity in their new home will be supplied by roof-installed solar panels. Hot water will be solar, cooking and heating will be with locally sourced wood.



Photo: Visnujana dasa

Gokula dasa and assistants hard at work.

Many unusual fruit trees, including grumichana and japoticaba, grow on their quarter-acre. The property is also home to three bovines of varying ages.

Total cost: slightly under \$50,000, with \$36,000 already spent. Gokula expects his project, which began in 2006, to be completed by January 2014. 🏠

Addendum

Due to space constraints, we were unable to print details of the interviewees for the *Compass* TV show mentioned in the August issue of *The Conch*.

These were Mukunda Goswami; Aniruddha dasa; Chandra Ballabha dasi; Dhara dasi; and Damodara Priya dasi.

MULTI-FAITH FILM AWARD FOR PUJA

By Govardhana Seva dasa

The Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre held an awards evening on Tuesday, 30 July 2013, celebrating the success of the High School and University teams and entrants in making it to the finals of the 2013 'Many Faiths, One Peace' film competition.

Over a six-month period, submissions were called for students of diverse faith backgrounds to compile a short video that best interpreted the theme of the competition.

Tina Lashand, or Puja, the joint winner, is the daughter of Shyamasundara and his wife, Rita.

Together with Ricky, her brother, the family perform services at the New Govardhana Temple. On Saturdays, they clean the Deities' paraphernalia, and on Sundays they organise and help with the serving of the Temple's Sunday Feast.

When asked about the award, Puja said, "The film was made by Mai Yang and myself. The theme for the film was called 'Many Faiths, One Peace' and our film was called 'R.E.S.P.E.C.T.'. The film mainly outlined the idea of many different religions and belief systems, and the importance of respect and understanding towards each other. 🙏



Photo: Trevor Gore

Tina Lashand wins award.

GOSHALA GOSS

By Urvasi devi dasi



Photography: Urvasi devi dasi



Sadly, we report New Govardhana's first *Gir* bull calf was stillborn. Madhu (see left) the *Gir* bull, and Padma, a three-and-a-half-year-old *Gir* heifer was the first successful pairing since Madhu arrived more than a year ago. Two other *Gir* cows are expecting calves soon and, hopefully, we will be able to offer the Deities *gir* milk, which is extra creamy.

In just a matter of weeks the geriatric and infirm herd will have their own purpose built shelter/mini *goshala* (see left). There will be storage space, feeding bays, shelter from the elements and space for the care of incapacitated or dying cows or bullocks. Maha Mantra dasa and a few contractors will complete the job in approximately three weeks. 🙏

DON'T SHOOT – REV TREV IS BACK

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Bhakta Trevor is now *The Conch's* official photojournalist. For the past few months, he has been submitting some excellent photos of activities around New Govardhana. The photos were so good that we began to publish many of his shots.

His enthusiasm and skill soon made us realise he would be an excellent addition to the team. He is now commissioned to cover most snaps needed for *The Conch* articles.

We are requesting all departments and devotees to assist him with an 'all-areas access' pass. 🙏



Photo: Kisori devi dasi

The Conch is very happy to welcome a new member to the fold.

'Bhakta Trev' Gore – the latest addition to The Conch team.

ADOPT-A-COW

For as little as \$1 a day you can experience the bliss of sponsoring one of Krishna's cows. Please contact Venu Gopal dasa: 0411 444 934

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles for *The Conch* must contain 200 words or less. Submissions should be supplied in MS Word format in an email to newgovconch@gmail.com. Articles and images may also be submitted via memory stick, disk or hard copy. Photos must be in JPG format. Deadline is the 12th of each month for publication in future editions. Occasionally a submission might be held over to a later edition. Articles and photographs must have the names of the author and photographer.

Anonymous submissions may not be published. Names will generally appear as submitted. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice. These guidelines are subject to change.

Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of *The Conch* or ISKCON.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP)
Damodara Pandit dasa
Mandakini devi dasi
Govardhana Seva dasa
Urvasi devi dasi
(layout and graphic design)
Trevor Gore (photography)
For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact newgovconch@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

HH Bir Krishna Goswami

Monday, 2 September to Thursday, 5 September

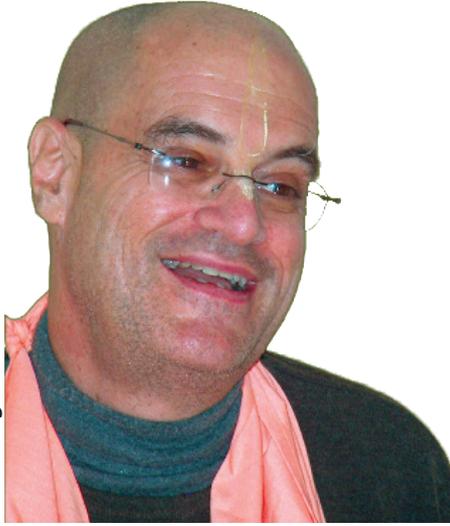


Photo: bkg.com

Program at Rupa's Monday, 2 September

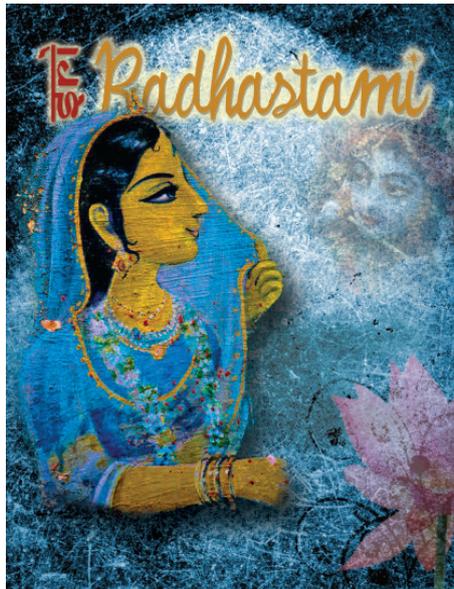
4.30 pm – 7.00 pm
Rupa Raghunatha dasa
5 Coral Fern Circuit
Murwillumbah

Morning Temple classes 3–5 September

7.00 am–Darshan arati
7.15 am–Gurupuja
7.30 am–Srimad-Bhagavatam class

Evening Temple class Wednesday, 4 September

5.00 pm onwards



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

Radhastami

Sunday, 15 September

7.30 am–Darshan
8.15 am–Srimad-Bhagavatam class
12.00 pm–Arati and kirtana
(part of 12-hour kirtana)
2.20 pm–Drama
2.40 pm–Dance performance
3.00 pm–Class
3.40 pm–Puspanjali
4.00 pm–Arati and kirtana
4.15 pm–Puspa abhiseka
5.30 pm–Feast

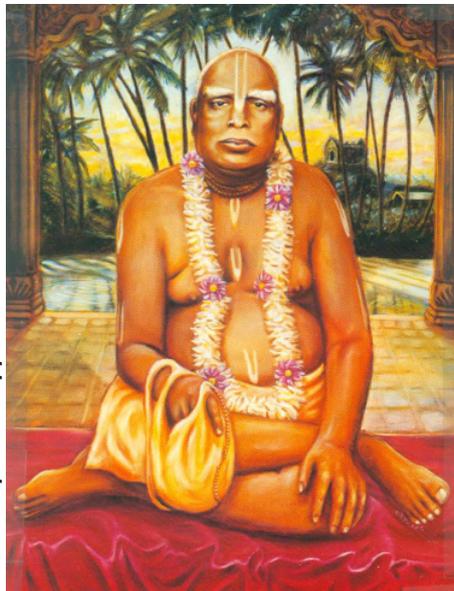


Photo: stephen-knapp.com

Bhaktivinoda Thakura's Appearance Day

Tuesday, 17 September

10.30 am–Bhajan
11.00 am–Class
12.00 pm–Arati and puspanjali
1.00 pm–Feast

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Image: sagonline.com

Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama 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
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaisnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

1 Sun	Ekadasi–Fasting for Annada Ekadasi
2 Mon	Dvadasi–Break fast 6.00 am–9.52 am
10 Tue	Srimati Sita Thakurani (Sri Advaita's consort) Appearance
13 Fri	Radhastami: Appearance of Srimati Radharani <i>Festival celebrated Sunday, 15 September</i>
16 Mon	Ekadasi (Fast today for Vamanadeva)
17 Tue	Trayodasi–Break fast 5.43 am–9.43 am Sri Vamana Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva (Fasting is done yesterday) Srila Jiva Gosvami–Appearance Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura–Appearance
18 Wed	Ananta Caturdasi Vrata Srila Haridasa Thakura–Disappearance Last day of the second Caturmasya month
19 Thu	Sri Visvarupa Mahotsava Acceptance of sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada Third month of Caturmasya begins (milk fast for one month)
26 Thu	Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA

KRISHNA KIDS KORNER

