

2018 November



THE CONCH

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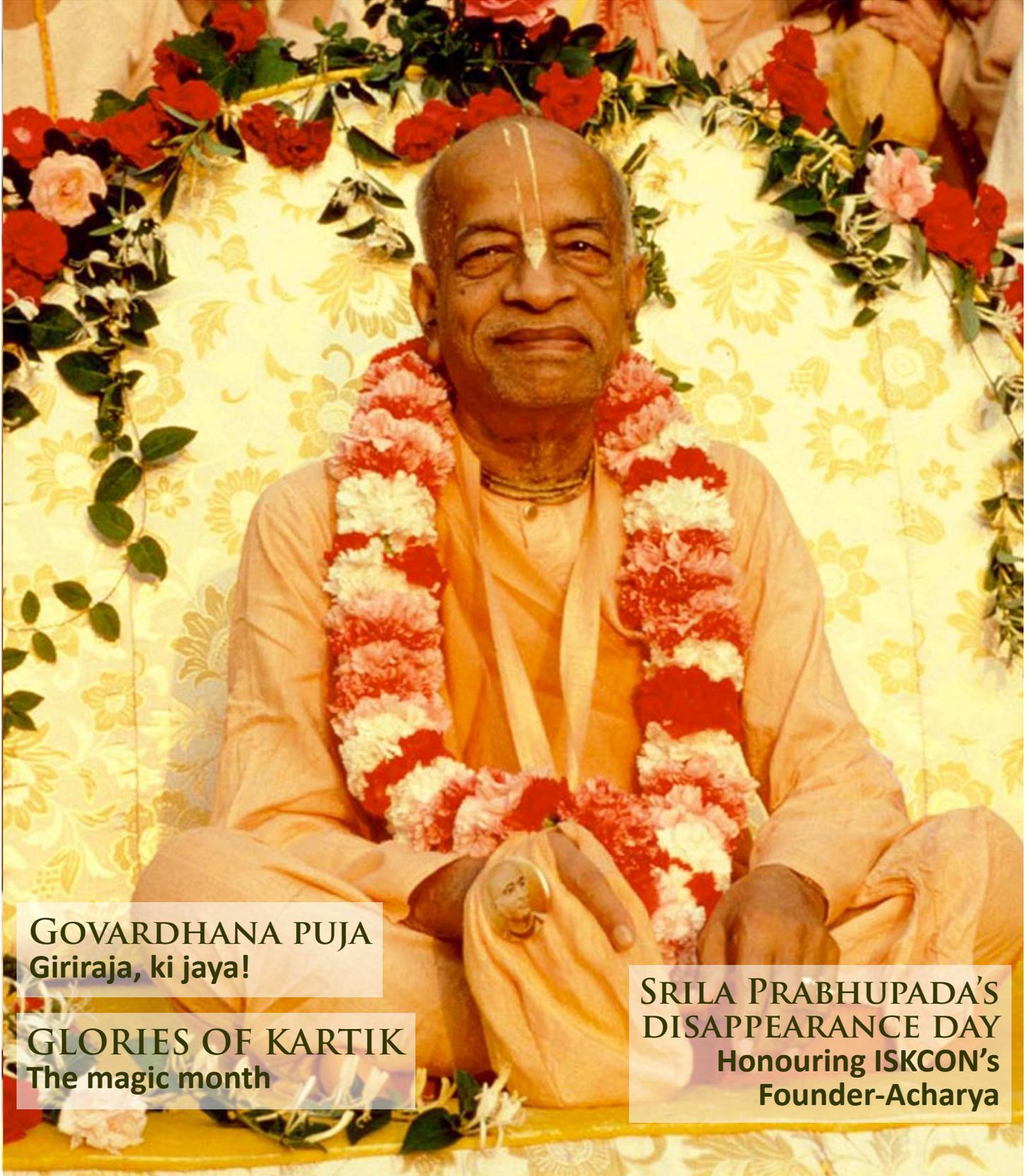
“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

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



GOVARDHANA PUJA
Giriraja, ki jaya!

GLORIES OF KARTIK
The magic month

**SRILA PRABHUPADA'S
DISAPPEARANCE DAY**
Honouring ISKCON's
Founder-Acharya

HISTORIC GURUKULA GRADUATION + VAISHNAVI FORUM EVENT

SRILA PRABHUPADA'S DISAPPEARANCE DAY

By Ambika devi dasi

This year, the Disappearance Day of ISKCON's Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada is Sunday, 11 November at 7.25pm.

Although it is a difficult day for his disciples, who suffered immeasurable sadness at his loss, according to Vaishnava philosophy the disappearance of a pure devotee is actually more significant than the appearance.

At the appearance of an exalted *mahajana*, all future preaching is in seed form. However, by the time the *acharya* leaves his body, he has already bestowed upon all those connected to him, his grace, mercy, knowledge, realisations and love. He then returns to his *nitya-lila*, or eternal pastimes with Radha and Krishna in the spiritual world, having performed the greatest service to the Lord.

This topmost service was executed by Srila Prabhupada in the form of bringing Krishna consciousness to the Western world, then returning to India and spreading the science of *bhakti-yoga* there.

Krishna describes in His *Bhagavad-gita*, "For one who explains the supreme secret to the devotees, devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end, he will come back to me. There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear." (Chapter 18, verses 68 and 69).

In the 11 short years since he first came to the West, Srila Prabhupada achieved so many extraordinary feats. To name a few, he incorporated the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, circumambulated the globe at least 12 times to spread *bhakti-yoga*, established around 100 temples as well as numerous schools and farms. He also established his Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT). In

Cover photo: www.givegita.com

addition, he wrote and translated scores of books, met with many scholars, scientists and well-known personalities, and "created a revolution in the impious lives of a misdirected civilization" (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 1.5.11).

Always acting as a transparent via medium, he passed on the instructions and teachings of his guru, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakura, reminding everyone he met that they are spirit souls, wholly unconnected with the body and mind. Along with teaching that the goal of life is to love Krishna, our eternal Lord, he gave the method to revive that love, that is, through the chanting of the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra* and through performing devotional service to Krishna.

All the spiritual opportunities and benefits we now have at our fingertips – beautiful temples where we can worship and serve the Supreme Lord, wonderful farms, schools, *prasadam* restaurants, transcendental literature, devotee association, and all manner of blessings – are available to us through the superhuman efforts and dedication of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada! 🙏

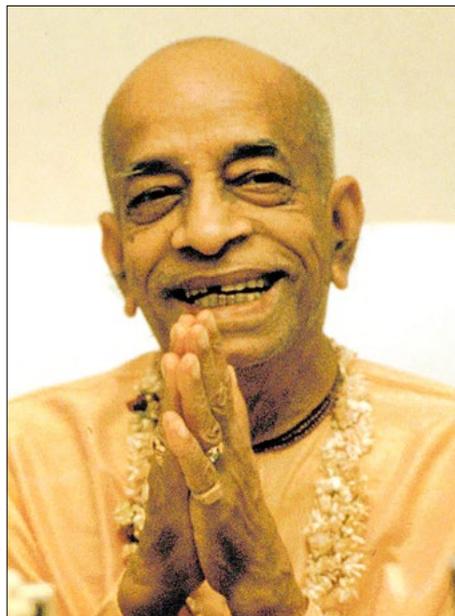


Photo: girirajswami.com

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, ISKCON's Founder-Acharya, and dearest devotee of Lord Krishna.

Photo: krishna.org



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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

While engaged with the *brahmanas* who were too much involved in the performance of Vedic sacrifices, Krishna and Balarama also saw that the cowherd men were preparing a similar sacrifice in order to pacify Indra, the King of Heaven, who is responsible for supplying water.

As stated in the *Caitanya-caritamrta*, a devotee of Krishna has strong and firm faith in the understanding that if he is simply engaged in Krishna consciousness and Krishna's transcendental loving service, then he is freed from all other obligations. A pure devotee of Lord Krishna doesn't have to perform any of the ritualistic functions enjoined in the Vedas, nor is he required to worship any demigods.

Being a devotee of Lord Krishna, one is understood to have performed all kinds of Vedic rituals and all kinds of worship to the demigods. One does not develop devotional service for Krishna by performing the Vedic ritualistic ceremonies or worshipping the demigods, but it should be understood that one who is engaged fully in the service of the Lord has already fulfilled all Vedic injunctions.

In order to stop all such activities by His devotees, Krishna wanted to firmly establish exclusive devotional service during His presence in Vrindavana. Because He is the omniscient Personality of Godhead, Krishna knew that the cowherd men were preparing for the Indra sacrifice, but as a matter of etiquette He began to inquire with great honor and submission.

Krishna Book Chapter 24:
Worshipping Govardhana Hill



New Govardhana's resplendent Giriraja receiving worship at the Govardhana Puja festival 2017. This festival was celebrated at the replica Govardhana Hill created by Maha Mantra dasa and his crew. The hill was decorated and covered with sweets, beautifully adorned cows were present for feeding and go-puja and dance items were offered. Giriraja was transported to the hill in a bullock cart decorated with flowers expertly led by Krishna Kirtana dasa. The 2018 Govardhana Puja festival will also be jubilantly commemorated with great love and devotion down by the lake.

KARTIK VRATA

Kisori devi dasi

Kartik runs from 24 October to 23 November this year.

Lord Sri Krishna says, "Of all plants, the sacred Tulasi is most dear to Me, of all months, Kartik is most dear, of all places of pilgrimage, My beloved Dwarka is most dear, and of all days, Ekadashi is most dear." (*Padma Purana, Uttara Khand 112.3*).

Kartik or the festival of offering lamps to Lord Krishna, glorifies the pastime of being bound with ropes by Mother Yashoda.

"As Satya-yuga is the best of *yugas* (ages), as the *Vedas* are the best among scriptures, as Ganga is best of rivers, so Kartik is the best of months, the most dear to Lord Krishna." (*Skanda Purana*)

It is recommended one observe the following foremost activities throughout the month of Kartik:

1. Increase quality and quantity of chanting the holy names of the Lord.
2. Offer a ghee lamp daily and sing *Damodarastakam*, meditating on meaning.
3. Practice *brahmacharya* – celibacy.
4. Worship of Tulasi Devi.
5. Give charity to qualified *brahmanas*.
6. Read or listen to *Srimad-Bhagvatam* daily.
7. Perform extra austerities if possible, eg. a abstaining from sweet or oily foods. 🙏

Founder-Acharya of the International Society For Krishna Consciousness
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

KARTIK MONTH

24 OCT – 23 NOV 2018

Offer a lamp to Krishna
7.00am | 6.30pm

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA
525 Tyalgum Rd. Eungella, NSW 2484 • www.krishnafarm.net • 02 6672 3047

BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI GURUKULA HISTORIC GRADUATION

By Kisori devi dasi

For the first time in ISKCON's history, the High School Certificate (HSC) has been awarded to seven graduates from Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula, here at New Govardhana.

The graduation ceremony, held on 27 September 2018, was a true community affair with the entire school and New Govardhana community invited. Proudly

congratulating each graduate as they made their speeches, the school principal Vinod Bihari dasa and many senior devotees and well-wishers came to give their blessings to the graduates.

Another important and touching aspect of the ceremony was the symbolic 'passing of the baton' to the next cohort of seniors. The current Year 11 students received blessings and encouragement for their next year of studies.

Husband and wife team, Madhavendra Puri dasa and Syama Sakhi devi dasi are pillars of support for the high school students. They have been positive role models, not

only as educators, but also as friends. They are extremely proud of the achievements of their first batch of Year 12 students.

To mark the occasion, a lavish formal dinner was also held lakeside, complete with lush red carpet, a sumptuous three-course meal and live music provided by local *kirtaneers*.

A large regional newspaper, *The Tweed Daily News*, reported the graduation in a grand manner with front-page coverage in their publication.

We wish the graduates all success in the next chapter of their lives. 🙏

Photo: Syamala Gopa Kishori Dasi



Teachers Syama Sakhi dasi and Madhavendra Puri dasa with the graduates.

Photo: Parvati devi dasi



A rite of passage celebrated with a traditional Vedic fire sacrifice.

Photo: Parvati devi dasi



Photo: Parvati devi dasi



BIR KRISHNA GOSWAMI'S VISIT – SHORT BUT SWEET

By *Kisori devi dasi*

His Holiness Bir Krishna Goswami visited Brisbane and New Govardhana early last month.

Well known for his fast-paced walk, which is impossible to keep up with, his schedule was just as fast-paced with a great deal achieved in the four days he spent in these areas.

Maharaja likes to conduct home visits at different devotees' homes, which he feels is a personal way to encourage people in their Krishna consciousness.

As many as 10–12 home visits a day is a normal part of his schedule when he visits Australia and New Zealand. In addition to this, he gives daily morning *Srimad-Bhagavatam*

Photo: Kisori devi dasi



Home program at *Kisori devi dasi* and *Nrsimhananda dasa's* residence.

class and makes time for individual meetings, as well some daily exercise for his health.

Due to his down-to-earth manner and approachability, many find him very relatable. Two of his most recent books – *Realizing Our Empathic Nature Connected to Krishna* and *You're Not That Body* – have proven extremely popular in helping people

understand the Krishna conscious philosophy in practical ways. (His Holiness Bir Krishna Goswami books can be obtained by contacting the author of this article.)

During Maharaja's visit to New Govardhana, he commented, "This is one of the most inspiring places on the planet that I visit. What a wonderful community you have here! It is like paradise."

He really liked the climate here too and stated more than once that he would spend more time here on his next visit.

On his visit to New Govardhana, he gave two devotees second initiation. *Karunamayi dasi* (who looks after the *goshalla* shop and the milking herd of cows) and *Padmalocan dasa* (the kitchen coordinator at New Govardhana) received second initiation on 4 October. *Nrsimha Kavaca dasa* expertly conducted the fire sacrifice. 🙏

NATIONAL VAISHNAVI FORUM: NURTURE, INSPIRE, EMPOWER

By *Krishnarupa devi dasi*

New Govardhana is hosting the National Vaishnavi Forum – *nurture • inspire • empower* later this month at the lakeside marquee. Devotee women from around Australia will be arriving 30 November to celebrate together for a weekend of innovative workshops, presentations and seminars from experienced and interesting devotees, along with inspiring discussions and brainstorming.

This exciting event will kick off on Friday, 30 November at 6pm, in the white marquee down by New Govardhana's tranquil lake, followed by a full day of presentations and interactive discussions on Saturday, 1 December, starting at 10.30am.

Saturday evening will be the Entertainment Night, so if you want to participate in the fun, make sure you don't miss this. You may even want to perform! If you do, please contact *Ambika devi dasi* on: 0434 214 186.

Sunday, 2 December is another jam-packed day, culminating in a tasty pizza feast at Krishna Village. The retreat continues until Monday, 3 December, coming to a close at 1.30pm, when a delicious farewell Ekadasi feast will be served to the attendees.

Well-known senior *Srila Prabhupada* disciples will be a drawcard for the Retreat. *Visaka devi dasi*, author and award-winning filmmaker, will be a keynote speaker, as well as author *Sitala devi dasi* (health allowing). Other *Srila Prabhupada* disciples and a raft of enlivening Vaishnavis will also be sharing their experiences and wisdom.

Srimad-Bhagavatam classes will be presented by *Visaka devi dasi*, *Jahnava Mata devi dasi* from New Zealand, and local devotee *Padma devi dasi*, who will be speaking on the topic of Mother Bhumi and the Bhumi Gita: Lessons in Self-Identity, Self-Interest and Self-Realisation.

There will be special guided japa sessions in the mornings, led by devotees such as *Camari devi dasi* from Sydney, *Acintya Rupa devi dasi* from Melbourne and *Ratipriya devi dasi* from New Govardhana. Sweet-voiced Vaishnavis will also be leading the morning temple program *kirtanas* for the three days. 🙏



DON'T MISS OUT!

If you have not already registered, don't miss out on this event. Visit the National Vaishnavi Sanga: Australia Facebook page for details on how to register or contact *Krishnarupa* on 0416 17 97 33 or krishnarupa.acbsp@gmail.com for assistance.

Please note that registration is essential.

For a detailed schedule, please see the temple noticeboard or go to the National Vaishnavi Sanga: Australia Facebook page.

THE FUTURE OF FARMING

By Syamala Gopa Kishori dasi

From November onwards, Krishna Village will be introducing a new and innovative course called 'Syntropic Farming', facilitated by Krishna Village team member Thiago Gimenez Barbosa, a Syntropic Farming pioneer in Australia.

Born in Brazil, Thiago is one of the world's foremost experts in this field. He travels throughout Australia facilitating workshops and helping farmer's transition from conventional to regenerative practices using Syntropic Farming principles.

The word 'Syntropy' is an agroforestry concept that refers to increasing biodiversity within the ecosystem. What makes Syntropic Farming unique is that it emulates the growth of the rainforest, one of the planet's most bio-diverse ecosystems.

According to the principles of Syntropic Farming, we can save massive amounts of water in agriculture. It also eliminates the use



Photo: Yossi Nachum

A new course on offer at Krishna Village will be one on Syntropic Farming.

of toxic chemicals and considerably reduces financial and labour cost by understanding and respecting nature's complex system by imitating how the rainforest functions.

This cutting-edge course is truly unique and we expect that it will attract many new visitors to Krishna Village. 🙌

SYNTROPIC FARMING Upcoming Course Dates:

16–18 November 2018

25–27 January 2019

8–10 March 2019

For details, see

<https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/syntropic>

NEW MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES AT THE GURUKULA

Tilakini McSween

Recently, the Gurukula has begun a comprehensive Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) program for adults, adolescents and children.

The instructor, Yadavendra dasa has recently started his own club, Point Break Brazilian Jiu-jitsu in Brunswick Heads. He says that it is due to the years that he spent in the Brisbane Temple *ashrama* and the guidance of the devotees, that he was able to develop the skills to appreciate and teach this Vedic martial art.

Yadavendra, known also as Rhys Dykes, joined the Brisbane, Graceville *ashrama* as a *bramachari* in 1996, where he studied Sanskrit and Ayurveda. After some years, Yadavendra settled in Melbourne where he discovered the academy of one of the world's highest ranked BJJ instructors, Peter De Been.



Photo: Kisorini devi dasi

Happy students at the Gurukula Hall.

As soon as he met his teacher, he began his BJJ journey in earnest, training sometimes six days a week. In 2007, he moved to Rio, Brazil for six months where he furthered his training and went on to compete in the World Masters BJJ Championship, where he won silver in his weight division.

Upon returning to Australia, he fought in many more competitions, became a three-time Australian champion and

eventually started his own BJJ school in Brisbane.

Yadavendra also travelled to Sridham Mayapur to train students in BJJ. His senior students, Laxmipati dasa, Balarama dasa and Ramavijaya dasa have now become instructors who continue to teach the next generation in Mayapur.

Yadavendra has begun training students of all ages in BJJ on Wednesday and Friday at the Gurukula Hall. 🙌

For more information, please contact

Yadavendra Dasa: 0423 034 584
Rhysdykes108@gmail.com or
Tilakini McSween: 0403665073
twinkalini@hotmail.com

Wednesday
Teens class 4–5pm
Adults class 6–7.30pm

Friday
Kids class 3.15–4pm
Adults class 6–7.30pm

OPENING DOORS TO THE GOSWAMIS' BOOKS

By **Dandakaranya dasa**

Gopiparandhana dasa was a disciple of Srila Prabhupada, under whose guidance developed a scholarly expertise in Sanskrit. He also served for many years as an editor for the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT).

After Srila Prabhupada entered his *nitya-lila*, Gopiparandhana served on the three-man team that completed the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. His other significant literary contributions are the *Tattva Sandarbha*, *Bṛhad Bhagavatamrita* and *Kṛṣṇa-līla-stava*. He also established the *Srimad-Bhagavata Vidyapitham* school in Govardhana to train a new generation of devotional scholars. Under the banner of Giriraja Publishing, they produce high quality translations of the literature of the previous *acharyas*.

Over the past few years, following in the footsteps of Gopiparandhana, the Giriraja Publishing team has published quality translations of books such as *Citra Kavītvanī* and the *Laghu Bhagavatmṛta*, both by Rupa Goswami. Secular academics have expressed recognition for the high-quality translation of these Vaishnava literatures.

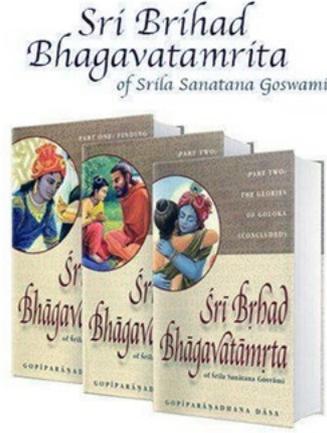
Recently Giriraja Publishing has come under the umbrella of the Australian BBT and is working on some exciting new projects – namely, a direct translation of Rupa Goswami's *Bhakti Rasamṛta Sindu*, for which Srila Prabhupada wrote his famous summary study *Nectar of Devotion*.

We hope that by making quality translations available in English, devotees will deepen their appreciation of the Goswamis' and

the previous *acharyas'* literature. Such books illustrate the sweetness and depth of their unalloyed devotion to Krishna and serve as an example to us all.

To purchase any of the mentioned books, please contact Dandakaranya dasa or visit the Temple Shop. 🐾

Photo: Courtesy of Dandakaranya dasa



HRIDAYANANDA DASA GOSWAMI IN AUSTRALIA

By **Syamala Gopa Kishori dasi**

His Holiness Hridayananda dasa Goswami has visited Australia for the first time since 1987, much to the appreciation of the devotees and especially his Australian disciples.

The purpose of his long-overdue visit is to continue his writing work in a peaceful and serene atmosphere. Hridayananda dasa Goswami is residing in quiet solitude on the Gold Coast, an environment he feels is the perfect place for a writing retreat.

Hridayananda dasa Goswami is a senior disciple of Srila Prabhupada and renowned scholar. He helped fulfil his spiritual master's desire of seeing the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*

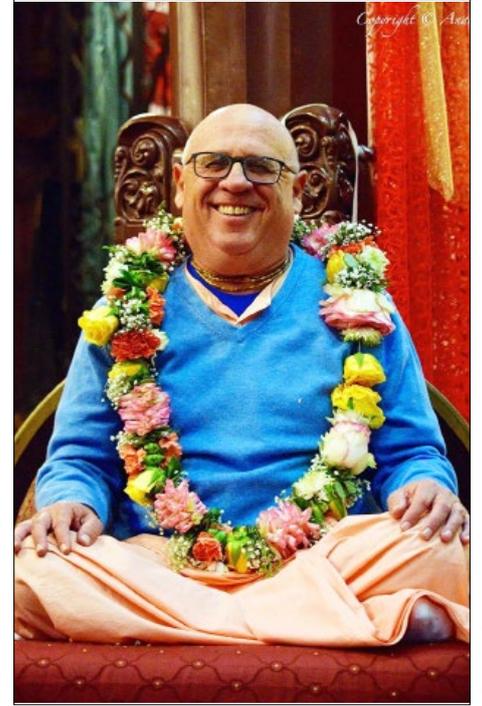


Photo: Anandajila dasi

His Holiness Hridayananda dasa Goswami's *vyasa puja* will be celebrated at New Govardhana on 5 November. Everyone is welcome to attend.

completed by translating the 10th, 11th, and 12th Cantos alongside his godbrother Gopiparandhana dasa.

In 1996, Hridayananda dasa Goswami received his PhD in Sanskrit & Indian Studies from Harvard University. While completing his Harvard education, he set historical precedence with a perfect mark on the Sanskrit comprehensive exam.

At the forefront of contemporary religious dialogue, Hridayananda dasa Goswami is recognised for his unique ability to adapt the wisdom of *bhakti-yoga* in ways that are attractive for Western audiences.

While in Australia, he is also taking time out of his busy writing schedule for some preaching activities, including temple classes, home programs, as well as outreach events on the Gold Coast and Byron Bay. 🐾

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Conch is your community newsletter. Please be a part of it! We invite you to submit articles for publication.

Articles should be 300 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to caroleditor@gmail.com. Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the

name of the author and the photographer.

Deadline is the 10th 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.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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Contact: www.conch.org.au

RECENT BRIDGE WORKS

By Syamala Gopa Kishori dasi

Last month the bridge to the farm was closed for several mornings and afternoons for repair. The timber bridge, which was built in 1983 by Janmejaya dasa, required maintenance due to the increase in farm traffic and damage from flooding.

Maha Mantra dasa and his team gave it an overhaul by replacing some of the old boards and bolts with the help of neighbours and volunteers.

The bridge is now stronger and less likely to rattle. However, visitors to the farm are still advised to travel very slowly over the bridge. 🙏



Photo: Dhriti Gopi devi dasi

Building a bridge between two worlds – no small endeavour!

UPCOMING EVENTS



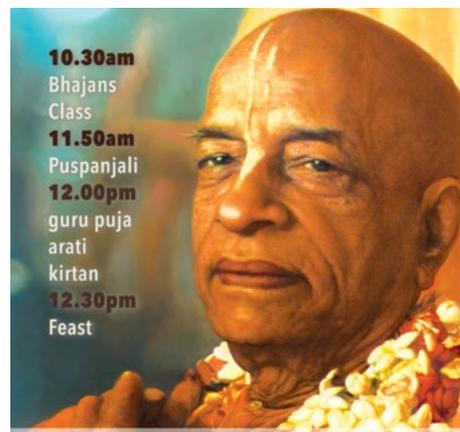
Govardhana Puja
Saturday, 3 November
• **Festival day**

7.30am Morning class by Ramai Swami
2pm Giriraja proceeds from temple to Govardhana Hill
Class by Hridayananda das Goswami
Odissi class, Kirtana, Feast



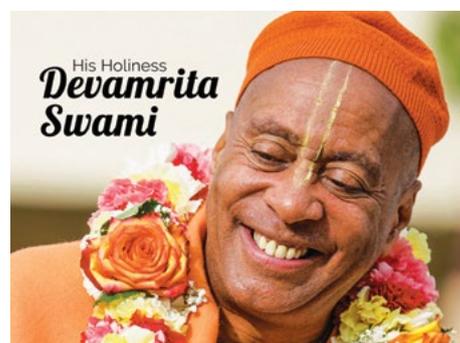
Govardhana Puja
Thursday, 8 November
• **Actual day**

6.30am Giriraja offering arrival
7.00am Darshana



Prabhupada's Disappearance Day
Sunday, 11 November

10.30am Bhajanas and class
11.50am Puspanjali
12.00pm Guru Puja
Arati and Kirtana
12.30pm Feast



His Holiness Devamrita Swami
25–28 November

Sun, 25 Nov 4.30pm Sunday Feast talk
Mon, 26 Nov 7.30am SB class
Tue, 27 Nov 7.30am SB class & 7.00pm Krishna Village talk
Wed, 28 Nov 7.30am SB class

For more information, please refer to
www.krishnafarm.net
Facebook: ISKCON New Govardhana

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 3 Sat Govardhana Puja celebrated on this day
- 4 Sun Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) – Fasting for Rama Ekadasi
- 5 Mon Dvadasi – Break fast 5.51am – 6:56am
- 8 Thu Go Puja. Go Krda. Govardhana Puja
- 11 Sun Srila Prabhupada – Disappearance
- 16 Fri Gopastami, Gosthastami
Sri Gadadhara Dasa Gosvami – Disappearance
Sri Dhananjaya Pandita – Disappearance
Sri Srinivasa Acarya – Disappearance
- 19 Mon Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) – Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi
Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji – Disappearance
First day of Bhisma Pancaka
- 20 Tue Dvadasi – Break fast 5.43am – 10.15am
- 22 Thu Last day of the fourth Caturmasya month
- 23 Fri Last day of Kartik
Sri Krsna Rasayatra
Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha (marriage)
Last day of Bhisma Pancaka



NOTICE

There will be no December issue of *The Conch* newsletter. The next edition will be January 2019.