



NEWSLETTER

of New Govardhana Community

THE CONCH



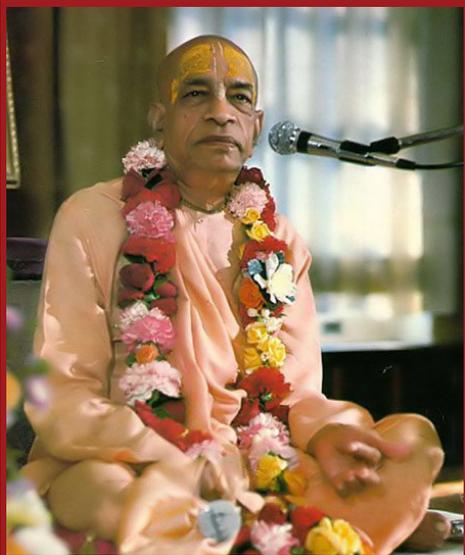
"Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees."

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

WELCOME ... to the first issue of The Conch !

There's a lot happening at New Govardhana and we look forward to bringing you the latest news and happenings. Department heads especially are invited to help us keep everyone informed and up to date with what's going on. The Conch will be available in print and electronically.

SNAPSHOTS FROM SEPTEMBER ...



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

Prabhupada uvaca ...

"He therefore asked Mahārāja Nanda to stop the sacrifice offered to Indra and to use the money properly by performing a ceremony worshiping the cows and the pasturing ground on the hill of Govardhana. By this act Lord Krishna taught human society, as He has instructed in the Bhagavad-gītā also, that one should worship the Supreme Lord by all acts and by all their results. That will bring about the desired success. The vaiśyas are specifically advised to give protection to the cows and their pasturing ground or agricultural land instead of squandering their hard-earned money. That will satisfy the Lord".

Purport SB 3:2:32



Ecstatic Kirtan for Radhastami Celebration



Gorgeous Flower Dress - Radhastami



Balaram Jayanti Abisheka



Recent 12 Hour Kirtana celebrates
World Holy Name Week



Ahimsa Organic Milk products and fresh
organic vegies now available at the
Sunday Feast from 4 pm

The **mayapuris**



Live concert and dance at the Byron Community Centre on
Friday 28th of October at 7pm
Contact: byroncentre.com.au

GOVARDHANA PUJA / GO PUJA
SRILA PRABHUPADA'S DISAPPEARANCE
SAT 29 OCT & SUN 30 OCT

see page 2 for details

GOVARDHANA PUJA CELEBRATIONS

by Karunika Devi Dasi

The tenth Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam relates many of Krishna's amazing pastimes. Of these, the lifting of Govardhana Hill is one of the devotees' favourites.

It tells the story of how Krishna lifted Govardhana Hill in Vrindavan for seven days and seven nights, balancing it on the tip of his small finger. He thus provided a huge umbrella under which all the residents and animals of Vrindavan could find shelter from the devastating rainstorm sent by Lord Indra.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead performed this pastime as a seven year old boy in order to crush the pride of Indra, the Lord of the heavens.

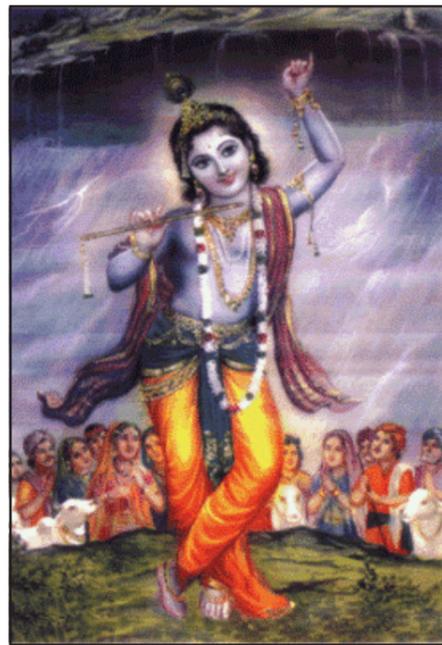
When Lord Indra realized that only the Supreme Lord could defeat him in such a mystical way, he surrendered to Krishna.

Traditionally in New Govardhana, devotees jubilantly circumambulate the hill of sweets and worship it as Govardhana Hill itself. Afterwards the sweets are distributed. This is a very exciting and meaningful festival. It is also said that those who celebrate the Govardhana Puja Festival need never fear death by snakebite!

The festival starts at around 11 a.m. with worship of the cows, a lecture and kirtan, followed by circumambulation a replica of Govardhana Hill. A sumptuous feast is served after the occasion.



Govardhana Puja 2010



FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Govardhana Puja and Go Puja festivals will be celebrated on Saturday 29th October.

A replica of Govardhana Hill will be made of many different types of sweets and other foods. Bulls and cows, who are very dear to the Lord, are also worshipped on this day by offering arati and decorating them. Ahimsa Organic Milk products from the cows here of New Govardhana will be available throughout the day.

Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day will be observed the following day Sunday 30th October. The program will start around 10:30 am with readings and homages, followed by puspajali, noon arati, and culminating with a feast.

A special guest at this years festivals will be HH Veda Vyasa Priya Maharaja.

Specific program details will be available on the New Govardhana website www.krishnafarm.com.au during the month of October.

For further details contact Gaura Shakti Devi Dasi on 0415 276 757

PRAYER OF A NEW GOVARDHANA COWHERD

by Venu Gopal Das

The air is clean and the evening light casts a surreal peace over the still landscape. Monsoon rains have cleared the heat and lethargy of the hot summer's day and the skies are alive with colourful beauty. Gold and pinks, dancing among the bluish black forms of distant storm clouds, remind me of the Lord's perfect artistry, reflective of His beautiful transcendental form.

Lord Krishna's cows and calves are making their way home, meandering along the avenue of majestic shade trees, after grazing all day on the lush emerald green pastures of New Govardhana. With serene looks and satisfied eyes, they appear to be enjoying a kind of samadi in their service to Govinda. The cows are of different colours. Black on white and white on black. Some are honey brown while others are as white as snow with flakes of gold specked through their shiny coats. Their long, lotus petal ears fall to the side of their attractive slender faces and their large humps and nicely folded dewlaps reveal an aristocratic ancestry going all the way back to the original wish-fulfilling cows of Lord Krishna.



I do not know how I have come this close to be able to serve them. In the beginning they were aloof and didn't care for me and although gentle by nature, they disdainfully rejected all my attempts to milk them. They would hold up their milk, move around, avoid the issue at hand and at times they even give me the boot. But with patience and humility I try to show them that I too, belong to the Lord and I mean them no harm. They came from so far away. Their lives were full of anxiety and fear, far removed from any semblance of love and kindness. But now they have a vaikuntha-like life, free from fear. They feel secure and happy, cared for by devotees who see and appreciate their unique personalities, their wonderful qualities and their great spiritual importance.

Thankfully, over the last few years, Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari's cows have gradually begun to accept me into their fold and I am so happy. Now when I milk them I feel like one of their calves. The cow is one of our seven mothers and I realize this truth intimately when, allowing me to lean against their warm bodies to draw milk, they give so freely. They glance at me with pleasure and they eat to their heart's content. And that is really all that I ask - that Lord Krishna's cows allow me to serve them, and that He is happy to enjoy what they have to offer.



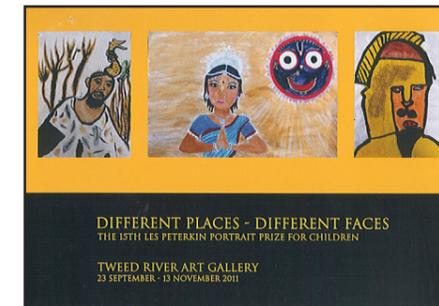
EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch should be up to 300 words and supplied in either Word format or in the body of an email sent to newgovconch108@gmail.com by the 21st of each month. Articles and photos other than your own should include source credits.

HARE KRISHNA KIDS RECEIVE TOP ART PRIZES

by Vinode Bihari Das

This year the students of Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula (Hare Krishna School) were invited to participate in a popular children's art competition organised



and sponsored by Tweed River Art Gallery, the Friends of the Gallery and Tyalgum Public School. The competition challenges thousands of Tweed's primary school students to imagine themselves in another time or place. Students inspired by the theme 'Different Places, Different Faces' use their art making skills to transform themselves into different characters from other realms.

We are happy to announce that six of our student's drawings will be included within a framed display of 40 of the most outstanding prize entries and the portraits drawn by Madhavi (Year 6) and Madhuri (Year K) will be given some of the top prizes. The beautiful drawing by Madhavi featuring Lord Jagannatha's smiling face and a dancer is decorating the official invitation card for the event at the gallery.

The opening celebrations of the event were held on Sunday, 25th of September at Tweed River Art Gallery.



EDITOR:

Urvashi Devi Dasi

EDITORIAL ADVISER:
Mukunda Goswami

FRIDAY FILM NIGHTS AT THE TEMPLE

On Friday 23rd September Radha Sakhi Devi Dasi inaugurated and hosted the Friday Film Nights with the newly released DVD "Following Srila Prabhupada"

She also baked a delicious cake which was served with ice cream, and courtesy of Damodara Pandit there were extra preps for the evening prasadam. Ajita, who came with his family, said, "it was a fun family night out".

The showings began at 5:00 pm followed by arati and prasadam.

If you have any nectar videos you would like to share please let me know.

Contact: Radha Sakhi Devi Dasi

ANNUAL BANANA FESTIVAL



by Karunika Devi Dasi

Once again Lord Jagannatha, Lady Subhadra and Lord Balarama have graced the streets of Murwillumbah at the annual Banana Festival Parade and Family Fun Day, thus showering their unlimited mercy upon the townsfolk.

The devotees danced to an ecstatic kirtan as they pulled the cart through the streets and distributed prasadam - small packets of nuts and dried fruit. The crowds are always amazed at the wonderful spectacle of the cart, coupled with the colorful array of saris and dancing devotees. This year the cart was awarded 1st Prize in the 3rd category of Best Decorated Float, and received \$200 in prize money. Lord Jagannatha ki Jai!

Thank you to all the devotees who organised and participated.

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA ... KI JAYA

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm
Bhakti Centre Surfer Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings
Northern NSW & Gold Coast
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara Prabhu 0411 825 549

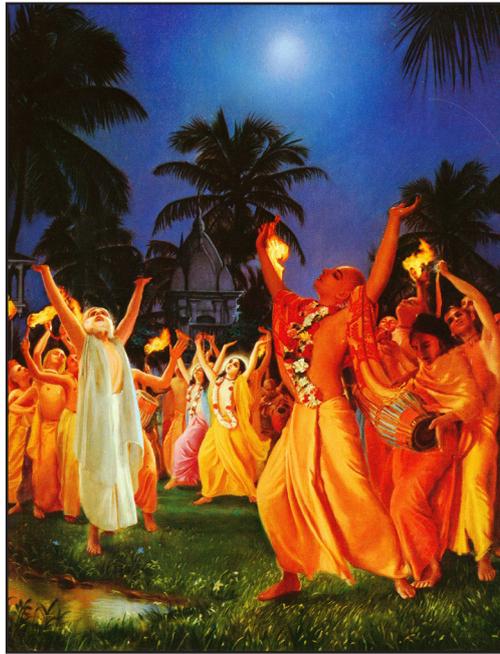
Sunday 2nd October 2011
Byron Bay Market

Sunday 9th October 2011
Coolangatta Market

Sunday 16th October 2011
Pottsville Market

Sunday 23rd October 2011
Coolangatta Market

Sunday 30th October 2011
Burleigh Heads Market



OCTOBER CALENDER

Mon 3	Durga Puja
Thu 6	Ramacandra Vijayotsava - festival program starts at 4pm Sri Madhvacarya -- Appearance
Fri 7	Ekadasi (not suitable for fasting) Film Night from 5 pm New Gov Community Meeting 5:30pm @ Temple
Sat 8	Dvadasi (suitable for fasting) Vyanjuli Mahadvadasi Fasting for Pasankusa Ekadasi Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami -- Disappearance Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Gosvami -- Disappearance Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami -- Disappearance
Sun 9	Dvadasi
Tue 11	Last day of the third Caturmasya month
Wed 12	Sri Krsna Saradiya Rasayatra Sri Murari Gupta -- Disappearance Laksmi Puja 4th month of Caturmasya begins (urad dal fast for 1 month)
Mon 17	Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura -- Disappearance
Thu 20	Appearance of Radha Kunda, snana dana Bahulastami
Fri 21	Sri Virabhadra -- Appearance
Sun 23	Fasting for Rama Ekadasi
Mon 24	Dvadasi (Break fast 05:04 - 09:23) Dipa dana, Dipavali, (Kali Puja)
Fri 28	Go Puja. Go Krda. Govardhana Puja (observed Sat 29 at New Govardhana) Bali Daityaraja Puja Sri Rasikananda -- Appearance Sri Vasudeva Ghosh -- Disappearance
Sun 30	Srila Prabhupada -- Disappearance

for more detailed information
www.vaisnavacalendar.com

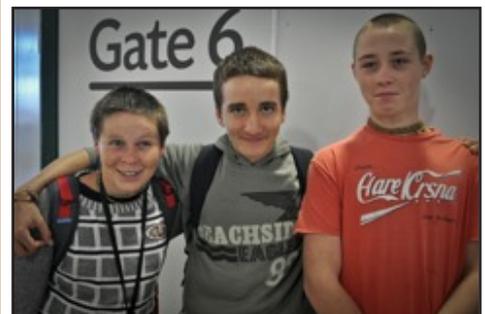
LOCAL BOYS RETURN TO INDIA FOR SCHOOLING

by Damodara Pandit Das

Local New Govardhana teenagers Ishan, Prahlada and Bala all returned to Sri Dham Mayapur early in September to begin the new school term.

The three boys all study at the Mayapur Gurukula under the guidance of His Holiness BhaktiVidya Purna Swami. The Gurukula is based on a traditional India model where the boys stay in the ashrama and learn spiritual sciences. The training includes rising early for Mangal Arati, japa meditation, performing puja, chanting mantras, learning traditional instruments, learning Sanskrit and Vedic maths. They also do yoga and kung fu.

Each year the boys also go on pilgrimage to holy places throughout India. The New Govardhana Community wishes them well in their studies.



Prahlada, Bala and Ishan

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