



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



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

SNAPSHOTS



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

Prabhupada uvaca ...

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Sri Krishna, after displaying His pastimes as Lord Krishna, thought it wise to make His advent in the form of a devotee to explain personally the transcendental mellows of reciprocal service and love exchanged between Himself and His servants, friends, parents and fiancées. According to the Vedic literature, the foremost occupational duty for humanity in this Age of Kali is nama-sankirtana, or congregational chanting of the holy name of the Lord. The incarnation for this age especially preaches this process, but only Krishna Himself can explain the confidential loving service performed in the four principal varieties of loving affairs between the Supreme Lord and His devotees. Lord Krishna therefore personally appeared, with His plenary portions, as Lord Caitanya. As stated in this chapter, it was for this purpose that Lord Krishna appeared personally in Navadvīpa in the form of Sri Krishna Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

(C.C. Adi Ch 3 Summary)



Urvasi devi dasi

Another amazing set designed and donated by Subhangi devi dasi is offered on Lord Nityananda's appearance day



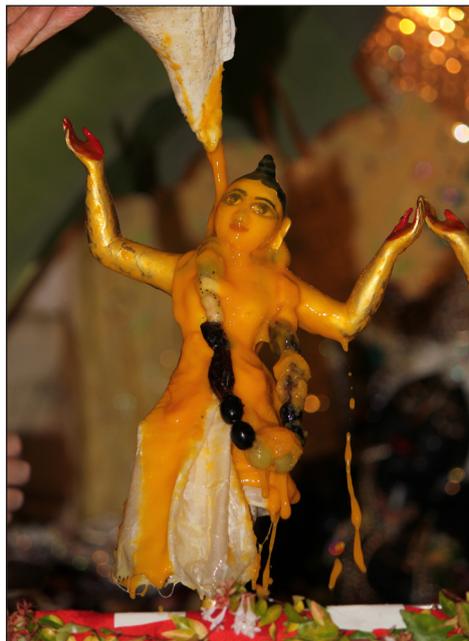
Urvasi devi dasi

A shower of mercy as Lord Nityananda is bathed on His appearance day



Urvasi devi dasi

The Deity Department organised a wonderful festival for the pleasure of Their Lordships



Urvasi devi dasi

Lord Nityananda being bathed with mango nectar



Urvasi devi dasi

Nikunja Seva devi dasi making her famous Burfi Cake for Lord Nityananda



Urvasi devi dasi

New turf being laid in front of the temple by Dhanesvara dasa and his crew, Shannon, Shaun and Jackson.

**SPECIAL 8 page
"BUMPER ISSUE" of
THE CONCH this month**

THE COW SHED CREW NEWS



Prahlada milks Rukmini and Artur milks "Biggie" (Hladini)

Prahlada "Lardi" Benson and Artur Anspoks, both 15 years old are two boys with a special love for Krishna's cows at New Govardhana. Each Sunday morning you will find them at the goshala doing all the milking.

Lardi recently returned from gurukula in Mayapur and lives at New Govardhana with his parents Dhanesvara dasa and Karunika devi dasi and little sister Lalita. In mid February Lardi started year 10 at TAFE, yet he still manages to fit in a few shifts at the goshala during the week helping Venu Gopal Prabhu.

Artur has been a regular at the goshala for more than a year, coming every Sunday almost without fail. His mother Kristine has encouraged him, not only in his cow service but also his attendance at the temple programs and chanting japa.

INDRA UNLEASHES FLOOD



"Where's that bridge gone?"



The causeway at Lagudi's Road becomes almost impassable



This is the main road onto the farm at the Goshala driveway (looking north)



Venu Gopal Prabhu being ferried home after his morning service at the Goshala



All the cows and bullocks at New Govardhana were moved out of harms way during recent flooding

During the recent floods at New Govardhana Krishna's cows were kept out of harm's way by the diligent service of Venu Gopal dasa. When the Oxley River broke its banks and entered into a number of paddocks where the cows usually graze, Venu ensured that each and every cow and bullock was accounted for and moved to higher ground. On a number of mornings at 3.00 am, Venu walked through a neighbouring property to be here for his milking service.

THANKS

Special thanks go to Granthapriya dasa and Mahapurusha dasa for their wonderful support of the *goshala*. Both these devotees regularly come from Brisbane to put in full weekends of voluntary service. Grantha fixes fences, slashes and cleans around the *goshala*. Maha brings young men from Brisbane and engages them in working bees and helping Daneshvara Prabhu in the temple gardens. Recently they spent the day picking up rocks and generally cleaning up *Manasi Ganga* lake paddock.

Thanks also to Narottama dasa, Vraja Jivan dasa and Venu Gopal dasa for their work refurbishing the new Gopal's Goshala Goodies shop.

A special mention goes to Tulasi dasa who donated his time doing all the plastering.

Rita Lashand will be donating samosas which will be available at the shop on Sundays.

And finally, we would like to welcome Trayadisa dasa to the Cow Shed Crew. He spent a number of days recently slashing paddocks.

NEW GOVARDHANA WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS

by Mandakini devi dasi

Welcome to Pandu das, Ganga devi dasi and their 3 children, 10 year old Abhaya, 6 year old Tara and 2 year old Gopal.

Ganga devi, who hails from Sri Lanka first met her husband at the Canberra temple. Following their marriage, they moved to Sydney where Pandu prabhu was engaged in distributing books. After the birth of their third child, he decided to join the work force as a driver with a Mt. Isa mining company in order to maintain his wife and children. Soon after, the family joined him there.

Ganga devi recalls the difficulty of living in the Mount, especially for the children who were gradually losing their former spiritual focus. This resulted in the decision to relocate to New Govardhana where the 2 older children are now happily attending gurukula. Busy mother, Ganga devi finds time to make garlands for Their Lordships, help with temple cleaning and cook an offering once a week.

Pandu prabhu will spend periods of 2-3 months working away and several weeks back home



Ganga devi dasi and Pandu dasa with Tara, baby Gopal and Abhay

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch should contain 200 words or less and can 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 by the 21st of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITOR/DESIGN & LAYOUT

Urvasi devi dasi

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

WELCOME BACK DHRUVANANDA

by Mandakini devi dasi

Former gurukul student Dhruvananda dasa has recently returned to live at New Govardhana along with his wife and her parents and brothers Govinda and Yadunatha.

It was in Sydney, where he spent the last 4 years distributing books that Dhruvananda and Dhanesvari devi dasi married last year in a civil ceremony.

Like her husband, Dhanesvari was born in a devotee family. Her parents, Markendeya das and Sudevi dasi have each clocked up an impressive 30 years of devotional service in their country of origin, Peru.

Dhanesvari is at present performing Deity worship and managing the roster, while Dhruvananda (as soon as his injured hand heals) will be assisting on the cooking roster and with temple management.

The couple have announced their Vedic wedding plans for Rama Navami which falls on 1 April 2012.



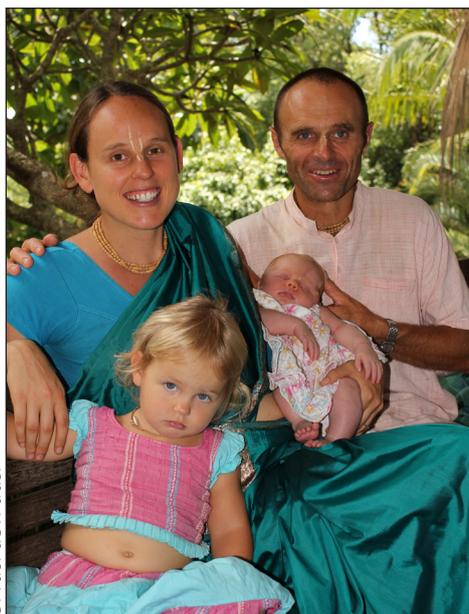
Back: Sudevi dasi
Middle: Yadunatha, Govinda and Dhanesvari devi dasi
Front: Markandeya dasa and Dhruvananda dasa

LALITA SAKHI ARRIVES

by Mandakini devi dasi

Welcome also to Lalita Sakhi, who was born to Rupa Raghunatha das and Krsna Rupa dasi 3 weeks ago.

Lalita Sakhi experienced her first outing on the auspicious occasion of Lord Nityananda's Appearance Day when she visited the temple accompanied by her happy parents, maternal grandmother and big sister, Vrndavanesvari aged 2.



Krishna Rupa devi dasi and Rupa Raghunatha dasa with Vrndavanesvari and their new baby Lalita Sakhi

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Dhanesvara dasa, Karunika devi dasi, Mandakini devi dasi, Satya devi dasi

SENIORS SERIOUS ABOUT KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

by *Ekadasi devi dasi and Govardhana*

Seva dasa

Recently two of our senior citizen community members, Gordon Miller and Joe Achmon took their initiation vows from His Holiness Janananda Goswami.

Joe, aged 83, was initiated at the New Govardhana temple in January 2012 and received the name of Jayadeva dasa.

He has difficulty breathing due to emphysema, but he remains steady in his chanting. He is a regular at the temple and is always performing service.

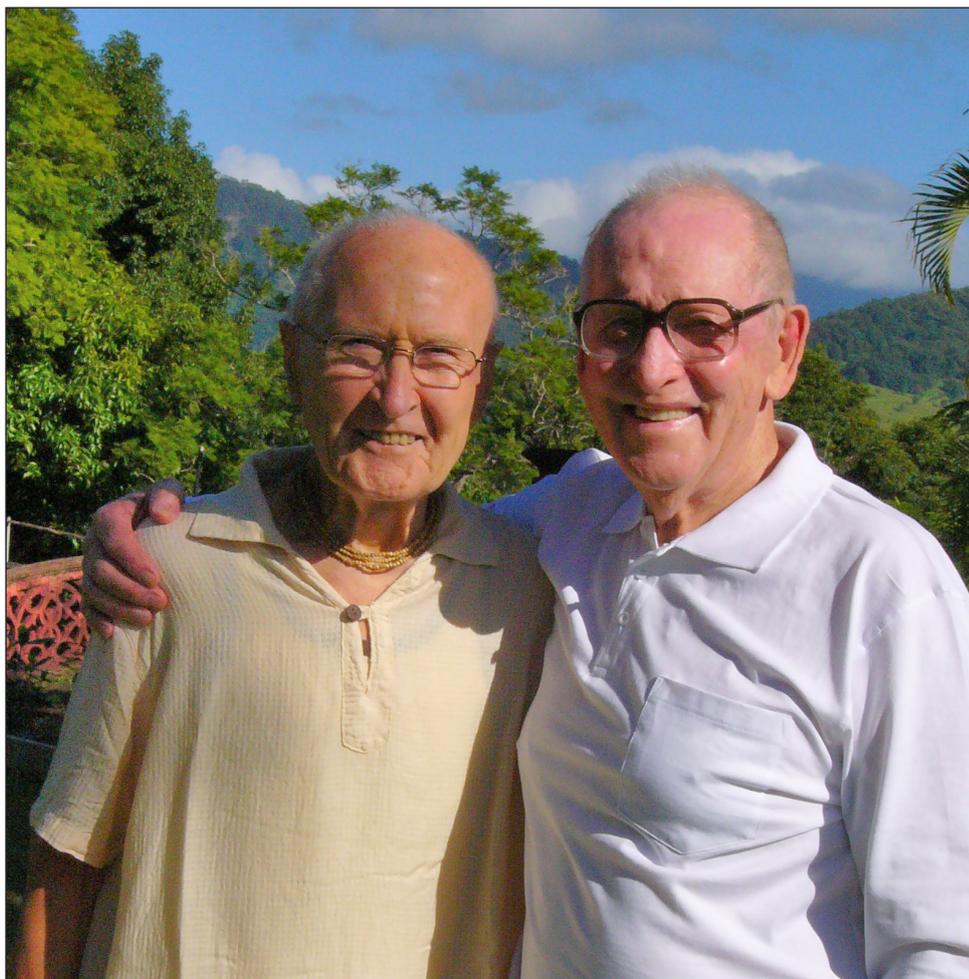
Gordon, aged 77, was initiated a week later in Sydney after attending

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



British Museum

Ekadasi devi dasi



Jayadeva dasa and Govardhana Seva dasa recently initiated by HH Janananda Goswami

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

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

4 Mar Byron Bay Market
11 Mar Coolangatta Market

MARCH CALENDAR

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

4 Su	Ekadasi — Fasting for Amalaki vrata Ekadasi
5 Mo	Dvadasi Break fast 8.49 am - 9.53 am Sri Madhavendra Puri — Disappearance
8 Th	Gaura Purnima: Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast today)
9 Fr	Festival of Jagannatha Misra
15 Th	Sri Srivasa Pandita — Appearance Community Meeting 5pm in Temple
18 Su	Ekadasi — Fasting for Papamocani Ekadasi
19 Mo	Dvadasi Break fast 5.50 am - 9.53 am Sri Govinda Ghosh — Disappearance
28 We	Sri Ramanujacarya — Appearance

Maharaja's Vyasa Puja and was given the name Govardhana Seva dasa. Four years ago, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and kidney failure. He says, "During the extensive treatment that followed, I concentrated on chanting the *maha mantra* clearly and attentively. This kept me in the moment, with no past, no future, just in the moment". He then realised he was free from stress and anxiety, and

knew it was due to his chanting. Govardhana has kept up his chanting with attention ever since. Jayadeva and Govardhana are good friends. Both have a good sense of humour and when they get together they often laugh at the way their aging bodies limit their physical activities. They say, "We know that we are not the bodies, but the body cannot keep up with our eagerness to be more active".

A BIG THANK YOU !

Following up on Gaura Shakti devi dasi purchasing new cupboards, Gokula dasa, Vilasa Manjari devi dasi, Bk. Edith, Bk. Hannah and Ganga devi dasi spent more than 200 hours organising, labeling, cleaning and repairing Their Lordships paraphernalia. The Deity kitchen has new shelving and hanging space, and Lord Giriraja now has His own area for His paraphernalia. All pujaris agree that the new space is much more "user friendly" and a joy to work in.

PEACOCKS AT NEW GOVARDHANA



Urvasi devi dasi

New Govardhana's resident Peahen (inset) and Peacock recently gave birth to four chicks (two of the surviving chicks pictured below)

The national bird of India (peacock) is a beautiful bird. Their wonderful feathers have long been used for adornment, just as Krishna is seen always wearing a peacock feather. According to Greek Mythology the peacock was a physical representation of Hera, Queen of the Gods. Peacocks are members of the pheasant family. The word peacock actually refers to the male bird but the word is commonly used to refer to both sexes of this species.

The most common breed of peacock is the Indian Blue. Peacocks are omnivores. Their diet may consist mostly of grain, grass, plants, insects and other small creatures, although they will eat just about anything. Peacocks have an average lifespan of twenty years in the wild. A family is known as a bevy. A group is referred to as a party. These birds prefer peace and harmony and will try to avoid commotion. They have a crest or crown that gives them a royal appearance. According to history, peacocks were brought to Egypt more than three thousand years ago by the Phoenicians.

They reach maturity between eight and ten months of age. Contrary to popular belief, peacocks do fly but only for short distances. They get along well with other birds and like plenty of open space where

they can roam free, and also enjoy being where they can get plenty of sunlight. Males may have a harem, with each peahen laying three to five eggs. Peahens make excellent mothers. The average length of an adult peacock's beak is an inch long. The feathers are popular decorations and often used in crafts. At night they like to roost in trees or other high places.

The brilliant hues and decorative "eye" of the males' tail feathers are this bird's trademark. An adult's train of feathers may be sixty inches long and can have a wingspan of up to six feet.

Down through the ages, peacock feathers have been a topic of superstition and folklore. According to various sources they may be considered as a token of good luck, or feared as a omen of ill fortune.

— Based loosely on information from "Our Beautiful World and Universe" (FB)



Urvasi devi dasi

Two of the four chicks recently born at New Govardhana

BV MADHAVA SWAMI VISITS NEW GOVARDHANA



HH BV Madhava Swami

Maharaja has been serving in ISKCON since 1972 and started closely serving Srimati Tulsi Devi in 1973. He was a member of the famous Radha Damodara Traveling Sankirtan Party and was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in 1974.

Maharaja is famous for his deep love for Srimati Tulsi Devi and his vast knowledge of the scriptures.

Whilst in New Govardhana his schedule is as follows:
Tulsi Devi seminars Pt. 1 & 2 on 5 and 6 March, Bhagavatam Classes 6, 7 and 8 March as well as a lecture at the Gaura Purnima festival.

CONGRATULATIONS ARJUNA & JODIE

Arjuna dasa and Jodie Walker recently celebrated their engagement.

The couple are happily looking forward to their Vedic wedding ceremony which they expect to announce within the next few months.



Jodie Walker and Arjuna dasa

BY THE MERCY OF KRISHNA AND GURU - A STORY OF LORD CAITANYA AND LORD NITYANANDA

by Satya dasi

Preaching is dangerous at times, but Krishna protects His servants as Srila Prabhupada shows with the story of Jagai and Madhai.

Although being born into pious families Jagai and Madhai had become 'materialistic men'. They were like modern men being 'women-hunters, drunkards and meat eaters'.

Feeling compassion, Lord Nityananda went to preach to them but they were intoxicated and didn't want to hear, so they threw an earthen pot which struck Him on the head, drawing blood.

Lord Nityananda, Srila Prabhupada tells us is the principle of Guru, although facing danger said, "Never mind you have injured me, please chant Hare Krishna".

Great souls are always peaceful despite difficulties encountered whilst preaching. However, when Lord Chaitanya, who is Krishna in the form of a devotee, heard about the incident, He became angry and immediately appearing on the spot invoked His *sudarsana chakra* weapon and said, "I shall kill these two men."

Lord Nityananda reminded Lord Caitanya that He'd promised not to use weapons in this incarnation, but The Lord was adamant, "No, they have insulted a Vaisnava". Although a Vaisnava is generally never angry, Krishna will not tolerate any insult to the Vaisnavas.

Lord Nityananda said, "You must then kill everyone, for in Kali Yuga (the present age) everyone is born sinful, and only chanting Hare Krishna can liberate them".

hare krishna
hare krishna
krishna krishna
hare hare
hare raba
hare raba
raba raba
hare hare



GAURA PURNIMA PROGRAM (FASTING TILL MOON RISE)

- 8.00 am Greeting of the Deities
- 8.30 am Class by
HH BV Madhava Swami
- 10.00 am Hare Nama in Surfers
Paradise
- 3.00 pm Bhajans by Kalyani and
Chandra
- 3.45 pm Gurukula Presentation
- 4:15 pm Class by
HH Mukunda Gosvami
- 5:00 pm Abhiseka
- 6:15 pm Offering of gifts
- 7:00 pm Gaura Arati
- 7:30 pm Feast

Festival information & sponsorship

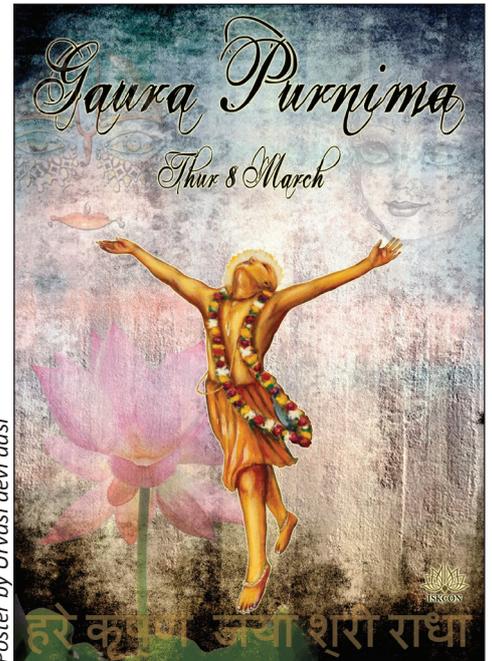
Karunika devi dasi
0401 225 621

Accommodation Bookings

Mahesvari devi dasi
0488 178 632

Kalash Sponsorship \$51

Premala Nath
0413 800 658

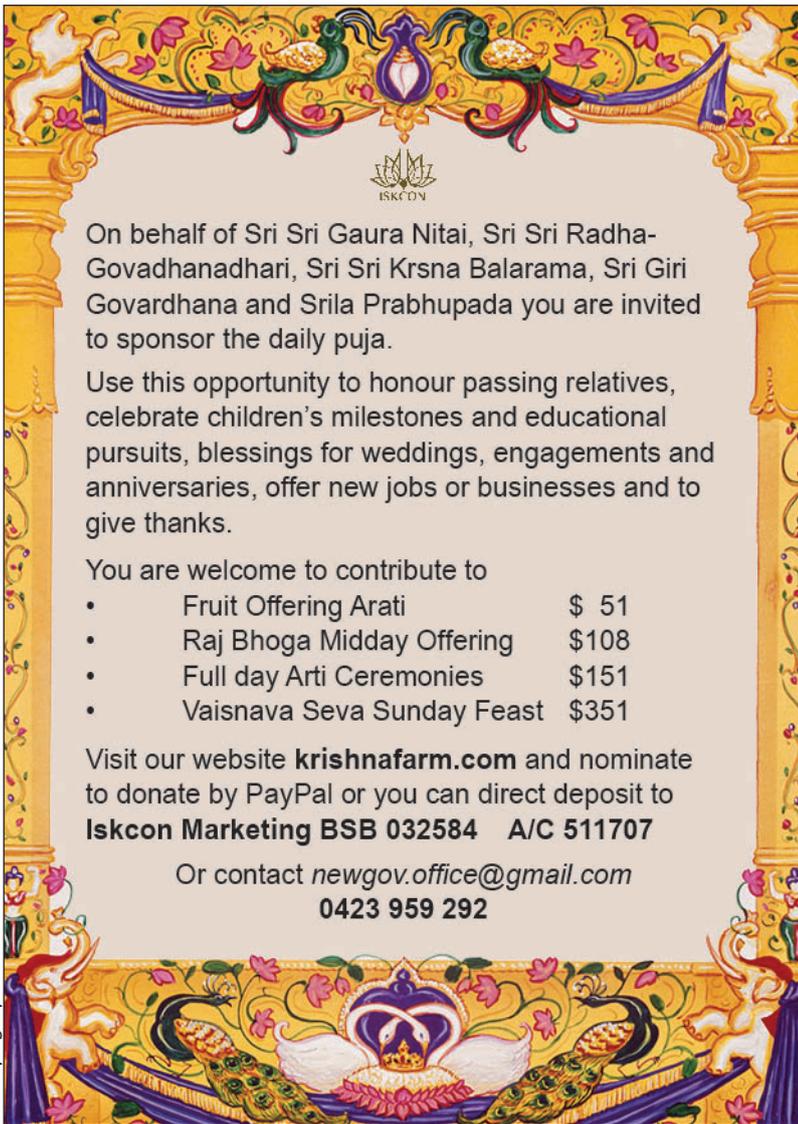


Poster by Urvasi devi dasi



ADVERTISEMENTS

kon sept graphics 0403 977 777



ISKCON

On behalf of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, Sri Sri Radha-Govadhanadhari, Sri Sri Krsna Balarama, Sri Giri Govardhana and Srila Prabhupada you are invited to sponsor the daily puja.

Use this opportunity to honour passing relatives, celebrate children's milestones and educational pursuits, blessings for weddings, engagements and anniversaries, offer new jobs or businesses and to give thanks.

You are welcome to contribute to

- Fruit Offering Arati \$ 51
- Raj Bhoga Midday Offering \$108
- Full day Arti Ceremonies \$151
- Vaisnava Seva Sunday Feast \$351

Visit our website krishnafarm.com and nominate to donate by PayPal or you can direct deposit to **Iskcon Marketing BSB 032584 A/C 511707**

Or contact newgov.office@gmail.com
0423 959 292

Advertise in The Conch

52.50 x 74.25 mm	\$ 30
105 x 74.25 mm	\$ 40
105 x 148.5 mm	\$ 50
210 x 148 mm	\$ 70
210 x 297 mm	\$100

Contact Karunika dasi on 0401 225 621

We have special 6 month rates and great prices if you want us to design your ad.

KRISHNA WANTS YOU !



www.iskcondesiretree.net

Service opportunities - no experience required

- Cooking Wednesday breakfast - Brahmans required
- General maintenance/ gardening
- Garland makers

Current Vacancy ..

Wanted: Weekly cleaner for the Deity kitchen

Qualification: Enthusiasm

Hours: Minimum 2 hours weekly

Please contact Dhanesvara dasa or Karunika devi dasi 0402 763 291



"Where you will be pampered from head to toe"



Ayurvedic Facial
Pedicure
Manicure
Tinting
Waxing
Massage
Ear Piercing

0404 411 577

radhasbeautyspot.com.au

kon sept graphics 0403 977 777

Business For Sale

Lawn Mowing & Gardening

All Equipment + Clients

\$10,000

Phone Dhanesh

0431 196369



HELP !

We need flowers and garland makers

URGENTLY

If you are able to supply flowers or help with making garlands please contact Karunika devi dasi on 0401 225 621



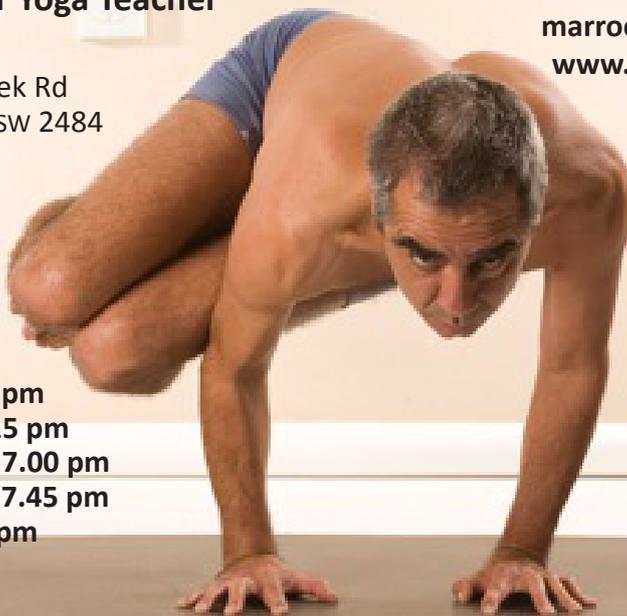
ADVERTISEMENTS

**SIMON
MARROCCO**

Senior Iyengar Yoga Teacher

Yoga Gurukul
769 Reserve Creek Rd
Reserve Creek NSW 2484

All classes \$20
6 week Beginners Course \$90
Starts March 19th Monday 6.00 -7.15pm
0431 949 122
marrocco@skys.com.au
www.yogagurukul.com



CLASS TIMES

Mon 10 am - 12 pm
Mon 6 pm - 7.15 pm
Tue 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm
Wed 6.00 pm - 7.45 pm
Fri 10am - 12 pm

For class details,
directions and
all other
information
please call,
email or visit my
website.

kon sept graphics 0403 977 777

GOPAL'S GOSHALA GOODIES

by Nikunja Seva devi dasi

The New Govardhana *goshala* has just acquired the old *prasadam* shop. It's been given a total make-over enabling us to establish a permanent outlet to promote cow protection.

Gopal's Goshala Goodies provides primarily milk-based produce for devotees and guests and financial support for the New Govardhana Cow Protection Program. In this way your purchases directly support the care of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari's cows and bullocks.

Some of the items available are *paneer*, yogurt, *burfi*, *srikand*, smoothies, whey drinks, raw milk, honey and various other milk sweets.

Future Items may include paneer burgers, *rasa malai*, *rasagulla*, Italian pita pizzas, *dosa*, *idli*, *samosa*, *jalebis* just to name a few.

Gopal's Goshala Goodies is open every Sunday during the Sunday Feast program.



Nikunja Seva devi dasi and Venu Gopal dasa head up the team at Gopal's Goshala Goodies



Newest member of the Cow Shed Crew Trayadisa dasa with Kishori

THE CONCH MAY GO GREEN

Unless we get the help of our readership, starting with the April issue, The Conch newsletter will only be available electronically.

This initiative can be said to be politically correct and environmentally friendly. Such moves have also happened with many newspapers - foregoing printing and making only electronic versions. This occurred about three months ago with Murwillumbah's Daily News weekday editions.

But for those of you who like to curl up in your favourite chair, feel and smell the paper and get into a comfortable position please help us by donating towards the printing costs.

Each issue of 100 copies costs us \$60 to print. So all we need is 6 of you to donate \$10 per month to keep the Conch going in printed form.

If you would like to support the Conch in this way please contact Urvasi devi dasi on 0403 977 777.

Hare Krishna

Urvasi devi dasi

Urvasi devi dasi