



November 2015



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

GOVARDHANA PUJA

Come celebrate with us

GURUKULI PILGRIMAGE

Support their journey

SRILA PRABHUPADA

His Divine Grace's Disappearance Day

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE COUP

50th Anniversary mega event

DON'T FORGET TO BE PART OF THE 50/50 GOSHALLA FUNDRAISER!



Keep *The Conch* in print!
Donate a gold coin at the
Temple Shop.

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + IN FOCUS + KRISHNA VILLAGE NEWS

HIS DIVINE GRACE, SENAPATI GURU

By *Kisori devi dasi*

As a complete philosophy, a full and rich culture, a way of life, and a way to death and beyond, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of ISKCON, has left a wealth of guidance that we can take advantage of to help us advance on our path back to Godhead.

Srila Prabhupada left this world, aged 81, on 14 November 1977 at 7.25 pm (which fell upon the Caturthi of the Gaura [Sukla] Paksa, Mula nakshatra).

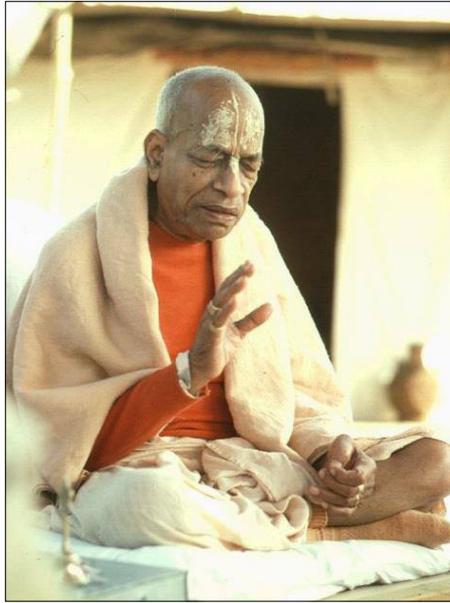
He had continued to instruct his disciples and translate *Srimad-Bhagavatam* until the very last moments and had continued to travel and preach until shortly before his departure.

Srila Prabhupada left this world surrounded by loving disciples engaged in *kirtana* in the holy land of Vrindavana.

Prabhupada taught by his example how to leave our bodies while being absorbed in love of God.

Srila Prabhupada began his movement in 1966, which rapidly spread to all parts of the globe. He has a unique position as the founder and ultimate authority of ISKCON.

Once a year his disappearance day is celebrated with a mixture of joy and sorrow. Joy that a dear servant of Krishna has rejoined Him in His abode – and sorrow due to the separation from the *senapati* guru.

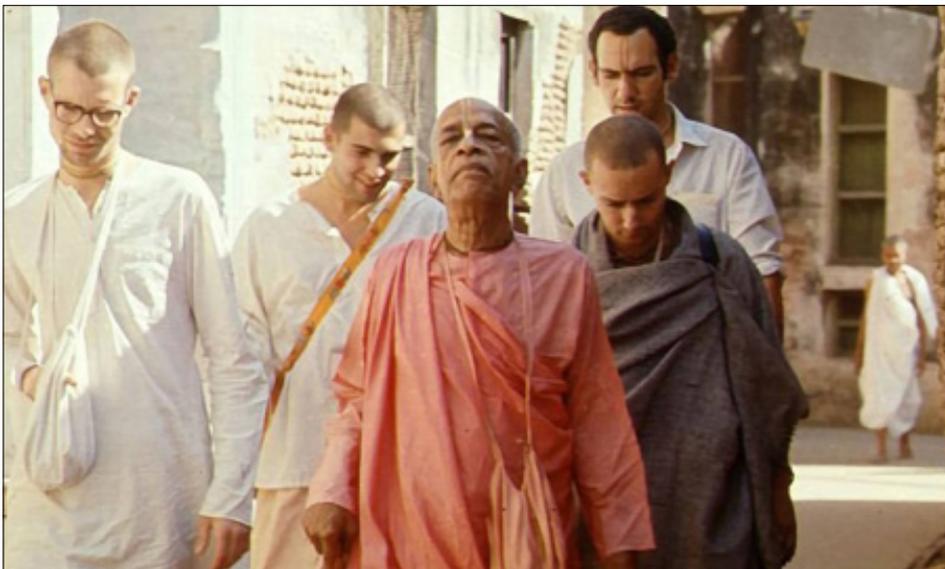


His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya.

Indeed, after the disappearance of a spiritual master, the disciple's only solace is his instructions. Acting to serve the instructions left by the guru eases the pain of separation and is considered the only reason for a disciple to continue to live after the guru has disappeared.

Srila Prabhupada's remarkable mission to spread Krishna consciousness worldwide, was achieved by his selflessness and compassion. His actions have changed the face of the world resulting in temples and devotees in almost every country and the holy name resounding around the world.

References: Srila Prabhupada Lilamrita, Volume 2, Srila Prabhupada Antya-Lila; His Holiness Tamal Krishna Goswami's Servant of the Servant. 🙏



Srila Prabhupada with disciples in Vrindavana, India.



Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

The sacrifice known as Govardhana *puja* is observed in the Krsna consciousness movement. Lord Chaitanya has recommended that since Krsna is worshipable, so His land, Vrindavana and Govardhana Hill, are also worshipable. To confirm this statement, Lord Krsna said that Govardhana *puja* is as good as worship of Him. From that day, the Govardhana *puja* has still been going on and is known as Anakula. In all the temples of Vrindavana or outside of Vrindavana, huge quantities of food are prepared in this ceremony and are very sumptuously distributed to the general population.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krsna, thus advised the cowherd men to stop the Indra-*yajna* and begin the Govardhana-*puja* in order to chastise Indra, who was very much puffed up at being the supreme controller of the heavenly planets. The honest and simple cowherd men, headed by Nanda Maharaja, accepted Krsna's proposal and executed in detail everything He advised. They performed Govardhana worship and circumambulation of the hill.

(Following the inauguration of Govardhana-*puja*, people in Vrindavana still dress nicely and assemble near Govardhana Hill to offer worship and circumambulate the hill, leading their cows all around.)

Excerpt from Krsna Book, by Srila Prabhupada, Chapter 24, entitled 'Worshipping Govardhana Hill'.

Front cover photograph by Urvasi devi dasi.

SUPPORT GURUKULIS' PILGRIMAGE

By *Syama Sakhi devi dasi*

Hare Krishna dear devotees and community members.

We, the Secondary School Gurukula students, would like to sincerely and humbly request for your help and support in fulfilling our life-long dream to visit Vrindavana this year!

While in Vrindavana, we will participate in the temple programs, visit the main sacred sites, and distribute *prasadam*. We hope to experience the spiritual culture of Vraja and gather inspiration as we shape our future.

We truly want to make a positive contribution to our community and the world. This pilgrimage to India will allow us to broaden our horizons of the infinite possibilities available, especially in terms of serving others, and we therefore sincerely need your help to reach our goal.

If you can, please donate for our cause either by bank deposit (ISKCON School BSB: 062580 AC: 10009170 Reference: India2015) or via our GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/HareKrishnaSchool>

Thank you for all your help and support. 🙏

THE KRISHNAS ACE NAPLAN

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

On 9 September 2015, the front page of the *Tweed Daily News* gave a glowing report on the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula, Eungella.

It was reported that our *gurukula* students had significantly outperformed the national average for all schools in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all categories in the compulsory literacy and numeracy exam.

Four of the Year 5 pupils were in the top eight in their results, scoring almost 100 per cent in grammar, punctuation and reading categories. This outperformed the average for their cohorts in the Australian Independent Schools and shows an astounding 84 per cent increase in average score growth.

This is a marked difference from three years ago when the *gurukula* was struggling to keep pace with the nation's averages.

Hearty congratulations to teachers and students. 🙏



Photography: Supplied by Shyam Sakhi devi dasi

Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula students need your help to make their pilgrimage to Vrindavana.

DEVOTEE CARE GAINS MOMENTUM

By *Ambika devi dasi*

The compassionate nature of the New Govardhana community is evident in the interest shown in the Devotee Care initiative. Since our initial appeal to devotees to come on board and be a part of this invaluable community service, we have been very encouraged by the positive response.

Men's Support Group:

At present there are six interested men. The first meeting will be held in mid-November.

Any interested devotees should contact Gokula dasa: gokula.dasa@gmail.com

Women's Support Group:

Lokesvari devi dasi (Loki) reports that her Facebook message inviting the women for a support group led to positive response from 23 women. Their first meeting, held at Parvati devi dasi's house last month, although small, was a riproaring success. Please contact Loki for information about future meetings: lokidejager@gmail.com

Youth Support Group:

A good amount of interest has been shown. At present the location of the first meeting, which will be held

in Murwillumbah, is being arranged. Please contact Advaita if interested: advaitamyler@hotmail.com

Young Ladies:

Please take up the cause. You will be well rewarded by the loving support of each other.

General Community Care:

An email will soon be circulated inviting devotees to participate in helping other devotees needing assistance when sick or when there is a family emergency.

If you would like to take part, your name will be placed on a list that will serve as an initial point of contact when someone needs our services. 🙏

THINKING BIG PAYS OFF

By Mukunda Goswami



In 1981 devotees posed for a photograph that appeared in a publication called *The Wonderful World of Hare Krishna in Australia*. A *sankirtana* party of approximately 40 devotees clearly showed the Sydney Opera House in the background. The Opera House has

himself, was that he couldn't "think small". Staging a Hare Krishna event inside the Sydney Opera House is an example of "thinking big", and the credit goes to Damodara Pandit dasa of the New Govardhana community of Australia, who for nearly three months negotiated with Opera House personnel to obtain this venue.

For those who don't know, the iconic Sydney Opera House has won a number of prestigious awards for its impressive architecture. Among

GOSHALLA GOSS

By Urvashi devi dasi

There are two cow related publications in the pipeline that I have the good fortune to be working on at the moment.

The first is a booklet that Srila Prabhupada instructed Mukunda Goswami to write. Along with Mandira Mani devi dasi, who assisted with the editing, Maharaja asked me to help with the graphic design. It should be ready for publication very soon.

The second exciting project is a memorial magazine commemorating the many achievements of Kurma Rupa dasa, who passed away earlier this year. As the founder of Care for Cows he has been, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for those who serve cows. This magazine will only be available online. This is also to be released in the near future.

Reproduced Courtesy of The Wonderful World of Hare Krishna



This photo appeared in *The Wonderful World of Hare Krishna in Australia* in 1981.

become a worldwide symbol for what Donald Horne in his 1964 book called *The Lucky Country*.

On Saturday, 20 August 2016 devotees of ISKCON will perform *sankirtana* inside this iconic structure.

Srila Prabhupada's singular fault, according to Srila Prabhupada

these are the RAI (Royal Australian Institute of Architects) Merit Award, 1974, the Meritorious Light Award of the Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia, 1974, the RAI Civil Design Award, 1980, and the RAI Commemorative Award for Jorn Utzon (main architect), 1992. 🙏



PHOTO: Hare Krishna Valley

Kunti and the two calves, Prahlada Narasimha and Locan (top right in picture) arrived safely at their new home at Hare Krishna Valley in Victoria. They are settling in very nicely.

YOUR TEMPLE SHOP

By Bhusaya dasa

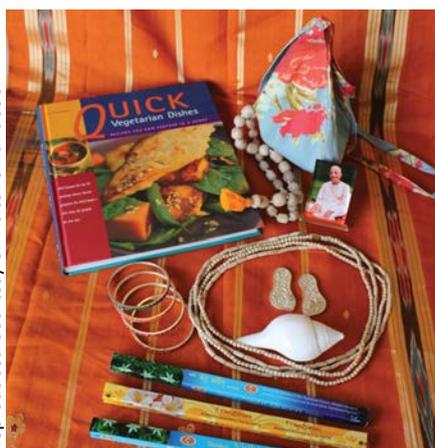
When visiting the temple, don't forget to pop into the Temple Shop, just near the *prasadam* pavilion. You will find a variety of items to enhance your devotional experience. There is a wide range of *gopi* skirts, saris and blouses, *kurtas* and other essential items, such as *japa malas* and *gopi chandan*.

This month the Temple Shop is having a sale on specialty books, including books by the previous *acharyas*. It

will also have children's T-shirts and *kurtas* on sale for only \$10 per item.

See you there! 🙏

Reproduced Courtesy of Visitor's Handbook



Cow announced as Nepal's national animal

Excerpt, Natalie Williams – VegNews 24 September 2015

"Under the new secular constitution, cows are protected and their slaughter is banned.

"A newly-adopted secular constitution in Nepal has anointed the cow as the country's national animal.

"The Asian nation has a majority population of Hindus – who consider bovines as sacred animals – which had an influence on this constitutional amendment. 'Now the animal has constitutional protection, and cow slaughter has also been banned,' Krishna Prasad Sitaula, general secretary of the Nepali Congress, said. This provision had been removed from the first [Constitutional Amendment] but we brought it back." 🙏

IN FOCUS: ADIKESAVA DASA

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

Swiss-born Adikesava dasa took up devotional practices when he met devotees while travelling around South America in 1996. He started serving in Bolivia, before moving on to Peru to join the ashram. From there he went to Chile, eventually taking up the position of Temple President.

In 2002 he took initiation and married Indranila devi dasi. He spent a total of 13 years in the region.

The couple, with their two daughters, migrated to Australia in 2009, where he held the post as Brisbane Temple President for 18 months.

As the family was growing and education became an important focal point, a decision was reached to relocate to the New Govardhana area.

Adi and Indranila now have four girls, with three of them at *gurukula*.



Photo: Aravinda dasa

(Clockwise from top) Vrindarani, Nadia Bihari, Indranila devi dasi, Ayodhya, Saci and Adikesava dasa.

An extremely hard worker, Adi spends the first three days of his busy week in Brisbane managing and operating the Fortitude Valley Food for Life restaurant. Opening hours are from 11.30 am – 6.00 pm.

For fund-raising, he has built a website www.foodforlife.org.au where people can donate to this worthy project.

He also spends time during the week placing donation boxes in shops around Brisbane.

In the New Govardhana Deity department, he has been regularly dressing Chota Gaura Nitai once a week.

Passionate about *prasadam* distribution, Adi mentions that his inspiration came about after reading *The Science of Self-Realization*. It features a conversation between Srila Prabhupada and Lieutenant Mosely in Chicago entitled, 'Crime: Why and What to do?'

There Srila Prabhupada emphasises that *prasadam* and *kirtana* are the means by which the heart will be cleansed and crime can be reduced.

Indranila dresses the Deities once a week and on Sundays facilitates a Sunday school for the children during the Sunday Feast. They enjoy many fun activities. Indranila mentioned that she would be most happy and appreciative to have other mothers join her in this weekly endeavour. 🐟

YOGA TEACHER TRAINING

By *Henrike Schreer*

It's exciting times at the Krishna Village – from February 2016 onwards it will be running internationally certified 200-hour yoga teacher training.

A few months ago the Krishna Village management asked themselves: How can we attract even more *sattvic* and spiritually interested people? How can we bring across the benefits of bhakti-yoga in a practical context relevant to the predominantly young, Western audience? And how can we

attract volunteers without providing second-year visas?

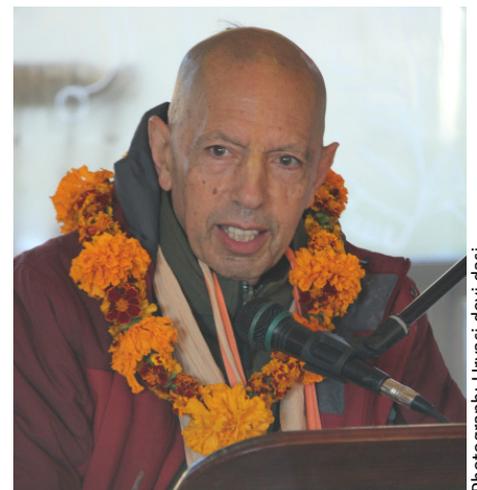
The solution is a combination of volunteering and yoga teacher training – a two months' stay that provides a full immersion experience of yogic lifestyle. The idea is to inspire our trainees to live and teach yoga in a holistic way, rather than just promoting postures and breathing techniques.

Living and training at New Govardhana will give them a broadened perspective of what a bona fide yogic environment looks like. They will participate in daily *kirtanas*, honour *prasadam*, and learn about bhakti-yoga and Vedic philosophy, which will support them in creating a fulfilling, sustainable, spiritually based lifestyle for themselves and others.

In return for four days of volunteer work per week, we will offer the most affordable yoga teacher training in Australia – a high-quality, safe alternative to going overseas in search of cheap rates.

Help us spread the word – expressions of interest are welcome via info@krishnavillage-retreat.com 🐟

STOP PRESS! MUKUNDA GOSWAMI



Photograph: Urvasi devi dasi

At the time of *The Conch* going to press, His Holiness Mukunda Goswami is scheduled for triple bypass heart surgery. After a short recuperation he will undergo surgery on his broken hip, sustained after a fall at his residence at the end of October. We request all the Vaishnavas to pray for his speedy recovery.

Photo supplied by Krishna Village



Early morning yoga class at Krishna Village, New Govardhana.

DEEP WATERS

By Ajita dasa

There are plans afoot for New Govardhana's main lake, which Ramai Swami built in circa 1986. Visitors and devotees living on the farm would have seen the lake being drained for cleaning last month.

Each flood brings in a large amount of silt and other run-offs from various unsavoury places. Over the past 10 years all effluents were brought to standard. However, the lake has never been properly cleaned since its construction. It was once drained when the lotuses were blooming there in the late 1990s, but it fully refilled in 48 hours due to heavy rains, which then killed the lotuses.

The weeds and water lilies took over from then on and were choking the lake, seriously affecting the water quality. The water began to smell like a sewer due to the rotting of the plant roots.

Currently the water is used mostly for irrigation. The plan is to remove all the lilies and clean as much sludge as possible, with the composted matter going on the fields as fertiliser.

We are hoping to build a *ghat* (concrete stairs into the water) for use during festivals for water sports, and we will also beautify the area to make it visitor friendly with sitting places, trees and shaded areas, all connected via a walkway to the entrance of the temple. 🙏



The excavation work on New Govardhana's lake in progress.

ARJUNA ARCHERY CLUB (AAC)

By Mandakini devi dasi

Devotee archery enthusiasts, headed by Aravinda dasa, have recently banded together to form 'The Arjuna Archery Club' at New Govardhana.

Along with Aravinda, the core group includes Trevor Gore and Bhakta Heath, with several other devotees expressing keen interest.

Regular target practice is taking place at Lagudi's old residence on Saturdays at 2.30pm.

Children are welcome to come along but they must be accompanied by a guardian. Strict adherence to safe practice is an essential prerequisite for joining the club.

As suitable targets are expensive to replace, a fee of \$2 for children and \$4 for adults will be charged, with Trevor managing the finances.

Hanuman House facilitator, Sridham, has possession of archery equipment including several bows and multiple arrows, and is more than happy to lend them to beginners. However, he did issue a dire warning about the loss of arrows. Archers who lose arrows will be subject to a penalty of 50 push-ups for each one that goes astray!

For more details, please contact Aravinda on 0490 127 547 or Trevor on 0435 030 595.

On another note, the men's Table Tennis Club headed by Parama Karuna dasa will resume their practise at 5 pm on Monday evenings at the school hall. Parama recommends that interested players please contact him before showing up to make sure that everything is going to plan. 🙏



(L to R) Trevor Gore, Aravinda dasa and Bhakta Heath hit the target.

THE SUNDAY LOVE FEAST

By Vasustrestha dasa

In the early days of ISKCON the Sunday Feast programme was the highlight of the week. On Sunday morning the kitchen would be full of devotees buzzing about helping to prepare the succulent *prasadam* they were going to bombard the guests with after the afternoon's lecture and *kirtana*. Many years later, the Sunday Feast is still a big drawcard here on New Govardhana.



Now young and old can help serve the Sunday Feast.

All week the devotees on the farm are involved in their various services such as *harinama*, book distribution, publishing, serving the deities, growing veggies, *gurukula*, cooking, cleaning and more. Consequently there are only a few devotees about after the morning programme.

On Sunday the congregation arrives in the hundreds for a big *kirtana* and sumptuous feast. Then on Monday its back to normal – a fresh week begins.

At New Govardhana, there has been a change in how *prasadam* is served to the many guests. With the arrival of daylight saving and the wonderful spring evenings, mats are spread out all over the lawn, helping to provide a more congenial atmosphere for honouring *prasadam* and associating with friends and guests. To help facilitate this a line-up system has been introduced so everyone can sit where they please. This also helps to alleviate the sore backs attained by aging servers in the previous system. It also ensures a more even distribution of all the different preparations.

The management wishes to thank all those participating in this wonderful tradition started by Srila Prabhupada. To keep it running smoothly everyone is invited to do what they can to help out. 🙏

ISKCON CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The mission of the ISKCON Child Protection Office (CPO) is to protect the children of Srila Prabhupada's movement from child abuse and neglect. By doing so, we strengthen the future of ISKCON – the children – while providing an example to the world of a society that practices compassionate caring and protection.

Each Temple has a Child Protection Team (CPT) that work together with their local communities to create safe environments for our children and deal with any issues that may arise.

The CPT at New Govardhana comprises Damodara Pandit dasa, Dhanista devi dasi and Karunika devi dasi. If you have any questions or queries please have a chat with them.

All members of the community are encouraged to visit the CPO website: childprotectionoffice.org 

BRIZZY HOLI

By Lila Manjari

For three years now, the Brisbane based 'Springflare' festival has been a modern and dynamic way of introducing the holy names to a multicultural youth.

It all started as "a response to a need in the university community in building better relationships between international and domestic students. The Krishna consciousness philosophy, as found in the *Bhagavad-gita*, has the potential to harmonise people from all backgrounds on the basis of a spiritual dimension that is beyond material designations," says Madhav Javeri, the main organiser, whose family and friends "work tirelessly to make the festival achievable every year".

This festival offers a five-hour experience of the ancient Indian colour festival called 'Holi'. "During spring, when the whole forest was in bloom, the villagers held a grand celebration to show their love for Radhe and Shyam. Amidst the dance, music, and feasting, they threw flower petals, scented juices, and colourful powders everywhere in the first ever colour festival."

This is part of the narration 'Vraja – The Colour Kingdom', which is part of the narration to the attendees. The audience is then divided into two teams, girls on one side and boys on the other. The ladies then represent Srimati Radharani's team by calling Her name "Radhe! Radhe!" as loud as they can, to which the boys response is "Shyam! Shyam!".

The stage lineup also offers a diverse range of artists such as DJs, bands, dancers, etc, who create a joyful atmosphere for the colour throwing, while the stalls sell food and gopi dots, among many other products.

It will be held again next year. Meanwhile more information is available on:

Facebook: facebook.com/springflare

Website: springflare.com/ 



Spring Flare participants.

AN OFFERING FOR PRABHUPADA:



This handmade vest, chaddar and hat set was made with love by our very own Gita Govinda devi dasi as an offering to Srila Prabhupada on his Appearance Day.

The material is spiritual

By Damodara Pandit dasa

Most devotees offer homages, poems and flowers to Srila Prabhupada on his Vyasa Puja but this year Gita Govinda dasi had a different idea. She carefully spun, weaved and knitted a new winter jacket, scarf and hat set for Prabhupada.

We think Gita must have really pleased Prabhupada with this beautiful offering. Lovely garments made from scratch here at New Govardhana! Surely she is fulfilling his instruction of "simple living – high thinking". 

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 newgovconch@gmail.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 or rejected without notice.



EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Go Puja, Go Krda, Govardhana Puja Sunday, 15 November



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

12.00	Noon arati and kirtana
1.00 pm	Abhiseka of Giriraja in temple
2.00 pm	Class with Venu Gopal and Maha Mantra prabhus
2.30 pm	Offering gifts to Lord Giriraja
2:45 pm	Cow sponsor appreciation
3.00 pm	Go Puja and feeding the cows
3.45 pm	Gurukula activities
4:00 pm	Arati



Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day Monday, 16 November

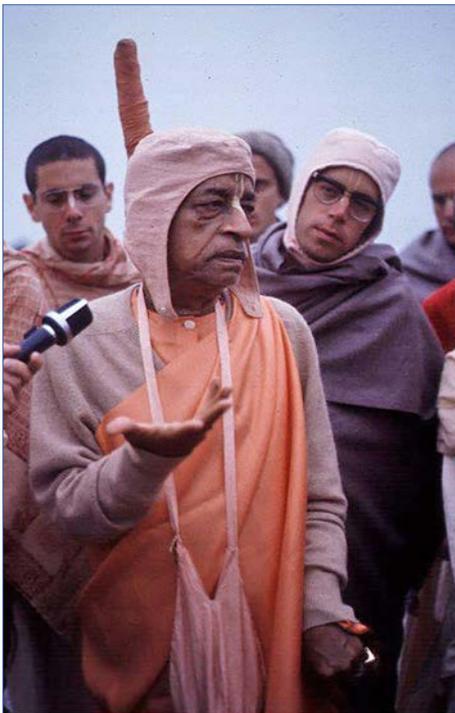


Photo: www.facebook.com

10.00 am	Bhajan and homages
11.45 am	Bhoga offering
11.55 am	Puspanjali
12.00 noon	Arati
12.30 pm	Feast



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

Darshan arati 7.00 am
Class 7.30 am

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA!



Photo: Aravinda dasa

Wednesdays 10.30 am
Byron Bay *harinama* 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
Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

1 Sun	Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura – Disappearance
4 Wed	Appearance of Radha Kunda, snana dana Bahulastami
7 Sat	Fasting for Rama Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
8 Sun	Dvadasi Break fast 5.49am – 10.16 am
11 Wed	Dipa dana, Dipavali, (Kali Puja)
12 Thu	Go Puja, Go Krda, Govardhana Puja (Festival Sunday 15 Nov)
16 Mon	Srila Prabhupada – Disappearance
20 Fri	Gopastami, Gosthastami
22 Sun	Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
	Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji – Disappearance
23 Mon	Dvadasi Break fast 5.42 am – 10.16 am
25 Wed	Last day of the fourth Caturmasya month
26 Thu	Sri Krsna Rasayatra Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha (marriage)