



April 2016



# 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



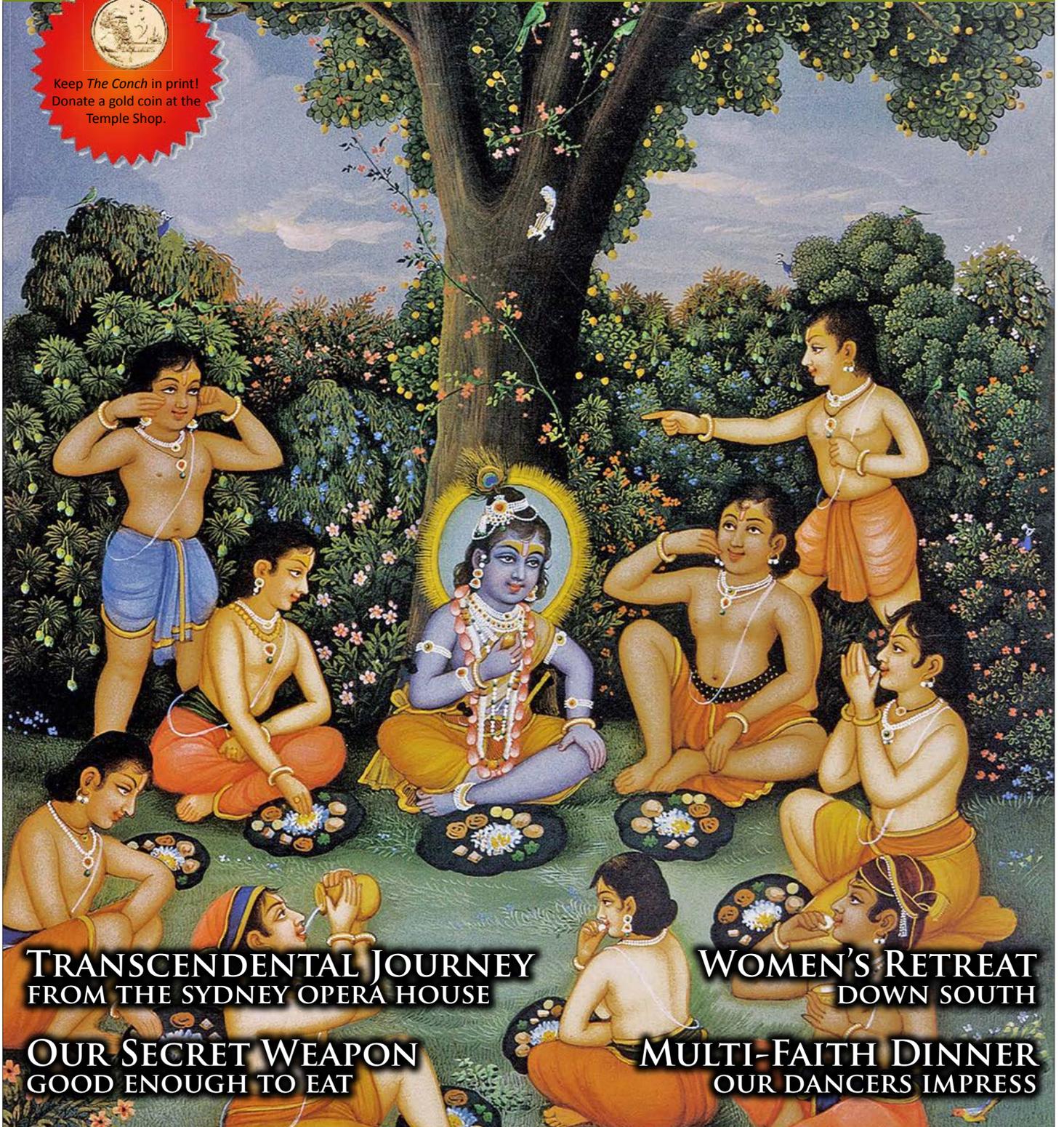
krishnafarm.com

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

### SPECIAL EDITION – PRASADAM



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



**TRANSCENDENTAL JOURNEY  
FROM THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT  
DOWN SOUTH**

**OUR SECRET WEAPON  
GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT**

**MULTI-FAITH DINNER  
OUR DANCERS IMPRESS**

**SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + VAISNAVA PRIMER BEGINS + 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

# THE POWER OF PRASADAM

By Kisori devi dasi

*Prasadam* means Krishna's mercy, and is the remnants of something that has been prepared for the pleasure of Krishna with love and offered to Him for His enjoyment. Because Krishna has tasted it or enjoyed it, *prasadam* is not a material thing - it becomes transcendental. Krishna and Krishna *prasadam* are non-different.

That means one can get the same benefits by honoring Krishna *prasadam* as one could get by being personally present with Krishna face-to-face. *Prasadam* is so powerful and so wonderful.

Srila Prabhupada called *prasadam* 'the secret weapon' and ISKCON is renowned for being a 'kitchen religion' because *prasadam* is one of the main ways of linking with devotional service.

There is something wonderful about *prasadam* which is illustrated by this experience of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, related in the [CC, Antya 16.108:115](#)

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu said, "These ingredients, such as sugar, camphor, black pepper, cardamom, cloves, butter, spices and licorice, are all material. Everyone has tasted these material substances before. However, in these ingredients there are extraordinary tastes and uncommon fragrances. Just taste them and see the difference in the experience. Apart from the taste, even the fragrance pleases the mind and makes one forget any other sweetness besides its own.

"Therefore, it is to be understood that the spiritual nectar of Krishna's lips has touched these ordinary ingredients and transferred to them all their spiritual qualities. A fragrance and taste that are uncommon and greatly enchanting and that make one forget all other experiences are attributes of Krishna's lips. This *prasadam* has been made available only as a result of many pious activities. Now taste it with great faith and devotion." Loudly chanting the holy name of Hari, all of them tasted the *prasadam*. As they tasted it, their minds became mad in the ecstasy of love." 🙏



Image: bhagavatam.katha.com

Lord Chaitanya instructs that *prasadam* be shared with all.

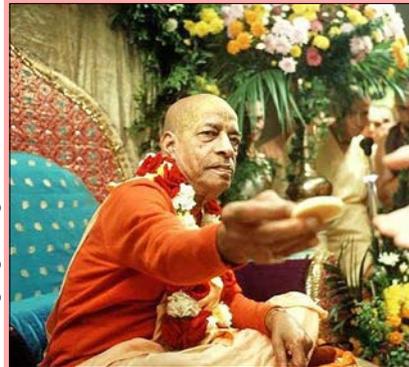


Photo: googleimages.com

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

## Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

"They ate all kinds of cakes and sweet rice, filling themselves up to their throats, and at intervals they vibrated the holy name of the Lord in great jubilation."

Purport: "It is the practice of Vaisnavas while taking *prasadam* to chant the holy name of the Lord Hari at intervals and also sing various songs, such as; *sarira avidya-jala*. Those who are honouring *prasadam*, accepting the remnants of food offered to the Deity, must always remember that *prasadam* is not ordinary food.

*Prasadam* is transcendental.

We are therefore reminded:

*maha-prasadam govinde  
nama-brahmani vaisnava  
svalpa-punya-vatam rajan  
visvaso naive jayate*

Those who are not pious cannot understand the value of *maha-prasadam* and the holy name of the Lord. Both *prasadam* and the Lord's name are on the Brahman or spiritual platform. One should never consider *prasadam* to be like ordinary hotel cooking. Nor should one touch any kind of food not offered to the Deity. Every Vaisnava strictly follows this principle and does not accept any food that is not *prasadam*. One should take *prasadam* with great faith and should chant the holy name of the Lord and worship the Deity in the temple, always remembering that the Deity, *maha-prasadam* and the holy name do not belong on the mundane platform. By worshipping the Deity, eating *prasadam* and chanting the Hare Krishna *maha-mantra*, one can always remain on the spiritual platform (*brahma-bhuyaya kalpate*)." 🙏

CC Madhya, 11.209



## TRANSCENDENTAL JOURNEY: 50 YEARS OF THE HARE KRISHNA MOVEMENT

Many devotees have been asking about the special ISKCON 50th Anniversary event to be held at the Sydney Opera House. Planning and rehearsal for the event is moving ahead. Here is some basic information.

**Sydney Opera House | Saturday, 20 August, 2016**  
**Matinee 1.30 pm | Evening 7.30 pm**

Tickets will be available from 1 June online at [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com)

Transcendental Journey is a celebratory and interactive multimedia spectacular ... a theatrical and musical sojourn into the heritage and achievements of the Hare Krishna movement.

### The VIP lineup for the event will include:

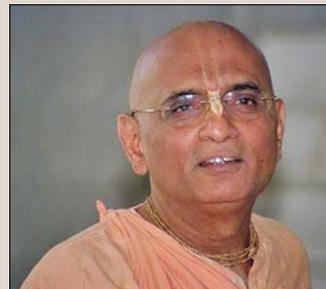
- HH Mukunda Goswami
- HH Radhanath Swami
- HH Bhakticaru Swami
- Shyamasundara dasa
- Malati devi dasi



### The devotee artist lineup for the event includes:

- Sri Prahlada dasa
- Bhakti Without Borders
- BCS Bengali Bhajaneers
- Natya Shakti Dance Troupe
- Tribhuanesvara dasa
- Bhaktivedanta Gurukula Mantra Choir

and much more ...



Have any great suggestions? Know of any talented devotee artistes? Please let us know. If you would like to make an earlybird discount group booking, contact our team.

Your servant,

**Damodara Pandit dasa**

E. [yakdas@hotmail.com](mailto:yakdas@hotmail.com)

M. 0415 190 313

FB. [www.facebook.com/transcendentaljourney](http://www.facebook.com/transcendentaljourney)



# GUNDICA MARJANA, ON A LARGE SCALE . . .

By *Ajita dasa*

A series of earth works have recently been completed at New Govardhana. By this venture the main lake, 'Manasi Ganga', has been cleaned and land reclaimed behind the Retreat Centre and the old dairy.

Manasi Ganga was excavated in the early 80's during Ramai Swami's management. The lake was then used for various water sports and festivals. It gradually became infested by a highly invasive lily called *Nymphaea Mexicana*. One characteristic of this lily is the strong smell emanating from the roots, resembling sewerage. Added to this, a large amount of Ecoli bacteria was also present at times.



Photos: Ajita dasa

*The highly invasive Nymphaea Mexicana*

Though the water quality remained safe throughout the decade, the time had come to undertake the huge task of emptying out the 60 million litres and scooping out the sludge. This task was time sensitive, requiring immediate attention just before the rainy season.

To siphon the water 60 metres of 150 millimetre pipes were installed. Priming such a voluminous pipe was a challenge. On the third attempt the outflow reached three million litres per day.

Unfortunately a storm ripped the pipe system before the end of the pumping. Unable to re-prime the system, a 1.5 ton pump was used with the farm excavator and placed near the edge of the remaining water.

Another week of pumping, racing against the five natural springs, and transferring a few hundred eels to another lake, was quite an experience.

Finally a 25 tonne excavator and two large mining trucks were hired to scoop out a two metre thick layer of sludge, analysed by the Gold Coast laboratories as a composition of sulphur and iron, hence the smell.

After two weeks of excavation 25,000 tonnes of unwanted materials were excavated. This is now being used for various fills and to re-establish pasture for cows to graze upon.

The lake has since refilled mostly with its own springs and stands now at three quarters full of its full capacity of 100 million litres, with an eight metre depth near the island. The water, though looking somewhat murky, is very clean and pleasant for swimming. It will take about one year to settle.

A *ghat* was built to allow swimmers to walk down the steps to bathe. Once full, the waters will reach the third step of the stairways.

Behind the stairs, the foundation for the temple of Manasi Ganga has been completed. It will hold a small but beautiful temple to honour the sacred place where pilgrims commence their walk around Govardhana Hill.

A couple of weeks later the same 25 tonne excavator accompanied by an 8 tonne bulldozer ripped through the jungle behind the school ridge and the old dairy. Some 30 acres of land were cleared in which to plant useful trees, such as tallowood, yellow



*Recently cleared forest at New Govardhana.*

stringy, iron bark and gum. Here they can grow unimpeded by the invasive camphor laurel, box and paper bark.

The land is now grassed up with fresh growth opening up large areas of pastures for the cows and bullocks, who seem to enjoy munching and discovering the new grounds which



*Burning off the cleared trees.*

were previously inaccessible.

We are now regularly burning huge piles of timber that burn for days.

On the upper side of the cleared land we have started another Cavendish banana plantation with 200 small plants already in and 800 more to go.

The total cost for the earth works was \$63,000. 🐼



*Excavation work of Manasi Ganga.*

# PRASADA SEVAYA

By *Urvasi devi dasi*

One of the most attractive and amazing features of The Supreme Personality of Godhead is His *prasadam*. Literally *prasadam* means mercy, but to devotees of the Hare Krishna movement its meaning has largely come to mean the food remnants offered to The Lord.

Here at New Govardhana we are blessed with unlimited variety and quantity of *prasadam*, with *maha prasadam* being an absolute favourite for all. *Maha prasadam* is the remnants of the offering that comes directly off the Lord's plate from the altar. Said to be particularly spiritually potent, *maha prasadam* is considered to be directly the Lord Himself and is to be honoured as such.

Traditionally there are six *bhoga* offerings per day, namely *Balya*, *Pratar*, *Raj*, *Vaikalika*, *Sitala/Sandhya* and *Sayana bhoga*. Remnants from these offerings are called *prasadam*.

There are also particular protocols to be observed when honouring *prasadam* which help the devotees to remember the sanctified nature of the food.

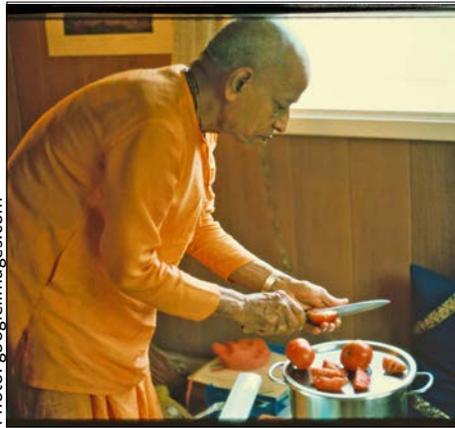


Photo: gooleimages.com

*"Cooking means if you have no appetite, it will create appetite. That is cooking, not that simply some ghee and masala and cook it. No. It is a great art."*

(Sri Prabhupada, Room Conversation, 19 February, 1977, Mayapur)

Sometimes we think it easier to leave out the small details in life, but its the simple, thoughtful things that make all the difference when it comes to *bhakti* yoga, and increasing our love and respect for Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

- 1) Always wear clean Vaisnava clothing and *tilak* when cooking.
- 2) Wash hands and mouth after eating and before entering the kitchen.

- 3) Take a full shower after passing stool, before entering the kitchen.
- 4) Remember that the kitchen is considered an extension of the altar.
- 5) Do not lust over *bhoga* (unoffered food stuff).
- 6) Do not taste or smell *bhoga* and do not eat *prasadam* in kitchen.
- 7) If *bhoga* falls on the floor and touches someone's feet it cannot be offered.
- 8) Avoid *prajalpa* (nonsense talk) by all means while cooking. Better to listen to a Prabhupada lecture or *bhajan*.
- 9) Cleaning the kitchen is extremely important and should be done constantly and thoroughly.
- 10) One should wash one's own eating plates outside of the kitchen. One should not eat out of any cookware used for cooking. All food should be transferred to containers.
- 11) The Deities should have Their own plates and no one should eat from them.
- 12) Their plates should be washed and dried before serving *prasadam* to anyone.

**The Bhakta Handbook: Kitchen Standards**

# GOVINDA VALLEY RETREAT

By *Ambika devi dasi*

With a beautiful, tranquil setting, fantastic *prasadam* and great programs, twenty one local senior women felt blessed to spend time reconnecting and relaxing at Govinda Valley Retreat Centre. This retreat reunited Vaisnavis who served in ISKCON in the 70's. Locals who attended included Mandakini, Rasarani, Krsna Premi, Surabhi, Ambika, Jaleyu and Visalini.

An ice-breaking session by Mandakini on arrival was great fun. Daily yoga sessions with Radha Kund kept us well stretched, a delicious picnic at nearby waterfalls was enjoyed by all and healing sessions were found to be very powerful. Mandakini outdid herself in a Saturday night skit, causing side-splitting laughter. Rasarani became Queen of the Whiteboard, amusing all with the daily schedules peppered with stick



Photo supplied by Ambika devi dasi

*Vaisnavis from overseas and all around Australia gather at Govinda Valley.*

figure drawings. All *kirtans* and classes were led and relished by the women. The highlight for many was Lord Nityananda's Appearance Day, when we had each woman remembering Sri Prabhupada.

There will be a wider retreat for women who have served in ISKCON on Radhastami weekend.

Atmarama dasa is the generous sponsor of the retreats. 🙏

# THE SCIENCE OF VASTU SHASTRA

By Govardhana Seva dasa

Recently we have been very fortunate to have Shastra Chaksus dasa staying with us at New Govardhana. Shastra is a specialist and consultant in the ancient science of Vastu Shastra, which is a Vedic system of holistic design. It is also known as the ancient Indian 'Feng Shui' or the art of Vedic placement. It can be applied to all forms of buildings, both commercial and residential, and would be very beneficial for anyone thinking of moving home or building a new one.

Vastu is an ancient form of art and science that recognises nature's forces and guides architecture and planning. It is based on Vedic mathematics, sacred geometry, cosmological physics and geophysics, astrology, Ayurveda and metaphysics. It is also applied in sacred architecture; many temples throughout India were built according to Vastu.

It is an advanced science dealing with construction technology and techniques for the purpose of



Photos supplied by Shastra Chaksus

Shastra Chaksus teaching Vastu Shastra in Taiwan.

designing ecologically sensitive, or environmentally friendly, building spaces, which are in harmony with subtle nature, cosmological forces and the universe.

Shastra had the great fortune and blessings to serve the devotee community in Sydney Temple, from the early eighties to the late nineties, by participating in the full-time Deity worship of Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha, and also in Srila Prabhupada's book distribution.

In the past decade or so, he has been living in Cairns region (far



North Queensland) and working as an international Vastu specialist and consultant. He has also been distributing full sets of the Srimad Bhagavatam in a systematic way; through the large network of his clients. This he considers as his main contribution to Srila Prabhupada's glorious movement.

For more information contact Shastra at the following:

Email: [Shastra@vastudesign.com.au](mailto:Shastra@vastudesign.com.au)  
Phone: (07) 5641 4213  
<http://www.vastudesign.com.au> 🐾

## GOLD COAST MULTI-FAITH COMMUNITY DINNER

By Radharani Priya devi dasi  
Gold Coast Bhakti Centre

Last night local ISKCON devotees attended the second annual "Gold Coast Multi-Faith Community Dinner".

The event was hosted by the Queensland Police force at St Anna's Greek Orthodox Church on the Gold Coast. It was an evening to 'share a meal and build a community.'

About 200 guests attended, including dignitaries from Queensland's police force - local Superintendents, Inspectors, Officers, Police Chaplains, as well as the leaders and representatives of all faith groups here on the Gold Coast. Some of the faiths included Bahai, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jew, Hare Krishna, multiple Christian denominations and many more.

Representatives and Professors from both Griffith and Bond Universities attended

"Natya Shakti" Oddisi dancers from New Govardhana, Krishna Bhakti and Vrinda Gleeson, performed as part of the evening's entertainment. The ladies were warmly welcomed and very much appreciated by all.

As an offering to Srila Prabhupada on ISKCON's 50th year anniversary, our prayer is that we continue to keep sharing Krishna Consciousness with others through dance, arts and culture. This leaves a very positive and favourable impression.

All glories to Lord Nityananda for showering His blessing on His appearance day. 🐾

(Right, from the top) Lalita Mace and Radha dasi with Gold Coast Inspector Owen Hortz; Krishna Bhakti and Vrinda Gleeson with Inspectors Hortz and Hanlon; Krishna Bhakti and Vrinda Gleeson with the heads of the QLD police commission and Jim Bellos, the organizer.



Photos supplied by Radharani Priya devi dasi

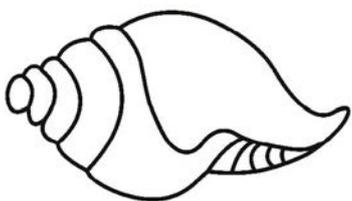
# WRITERS FOR THE CONCH WANTED

By The Conch Editorial Board

If you are interested in writing an article for The Conch Newsletter but are unsure how to go about it, the following will help you.

- It is preferred that the article is presented as a Word document, but we will accept your submission typed directly into the body of an email. Your offering should not exceed 300 words, however, depending on the amount of space available from issue to issue, this may sometimes be exceeded.
- Photographs must be submitted in JPG format and include a caption and the name of the photographer or source of the image.
- Articles should be forwarded only to [gordon108@bigpond.com](mailto:gordon108@bigpond.com) for proof reading and reformatting to conform to The Conch style.
- All articles are then edited if necessary and finally go to layout and design.
- Articles should not be critical or defamatory, nor contrary to Krishna Conscious principles.

We also welcome ideas for articles. If you know of an event, achievement or happening in our community, or even further afield, please contact [gordon108@bigpond.com](mailto:gordon108@bigpond.com) 



## 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 [gordon108@bigpond.com](mailto:gordon108@bigpond.com). Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

## NEW RESIDENTS

By Mandakini devi dasi

New Govardhana community welcomes new residents Shanti Parayana dasa and Rasamayi devi dasi.

After spending 13 years in Mayapur, India, the couple were pleased to accept Ajita dasa's invitation to relocate to Australia. They both felt that a change was in order and relished the idea of experiencing some clement and health-inducing weather Down Under.

Shanti hails from Melbourne. Rasamayi is originally from Lithuania, but was residing in St. Petersburg when she took up devotional life. They married in 2002.

Most of their time in Mayapur was spent with The Adult Education School of Bhaktivedanta. Shanti also served as a counsellor, mediator and ombudsman.

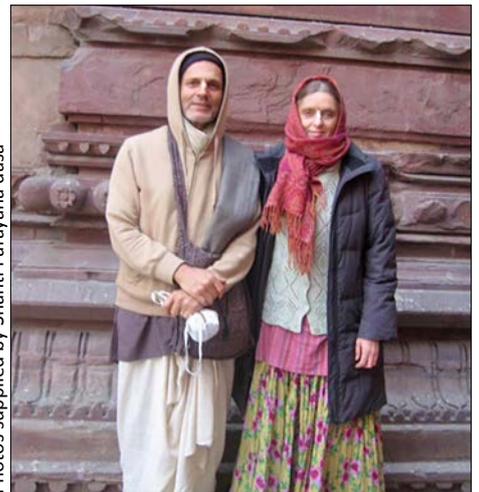
Rasamayi spent 15 years travelling with Indradyumna Swami's famous Polish Festival Tour. During that period she held the position of head pujari for eight years. She was also a keen book distributor and fund raiser.

Here at New Govardhana, besides helping with the Deity seva, Shanti and Rasamayi engage in general preaching.

Shanti commenced a Vaisnava Comprehensive Primer Course on 14 March, which takes place every weekday evening from 5.00 pm until 6.30 pm. All are welcome to attend these informative classes. 



Shanti Parayana dasa.



Photos supplied by Shanti Parayana dasa

Shanti Parayana dasa and Rasamayi devi dasi

Vaisnava Primer Course  
Presenting the Foundation of the Essence  
of Krishna Consciousness  
Bhajans and Class  
presented by  
Shanti Parayan Das

Beginning Monday, 14 March  
Monday - Friday  
5.00 - 6.30 pm

For registration:  
Shantipa55@hotmail.com

Artwork: Urvasi devi dasi



### EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rama Navami

15 April 2016

Check [krishnafarm.com](http://krishnafarm.com) for more details as they become available.

Rama Navami celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.

Rama is the hero of the Ramayana, the Sanskrit epic of 24,000 stanzas.



Image: [www.bingimages.com](http://www.bingimages.com)

### HH Ramai Swami

14 - 16 April 2016

7.30am Srimad Bhagavatam Classes

Ramai Swami came in contact with ISKCON by reading a Back To Godhead magazine. His interest in the spiritual content was awakened and he began to associate with devotees regularly. After some time he joined as a full time member and was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in Melbourne in 1973.

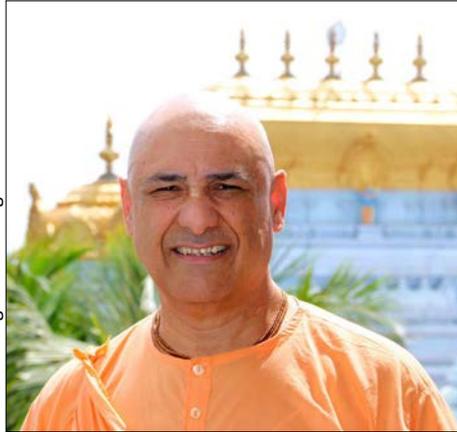


Photo: [www.gbc.iskcon.org](http://www.gbc.iskcon.org)

### HH Bir Krishna Goswami

27 and 28 April 2016

7.30 am Srimad Bhagavatam Classes

While a student at university he began reading the Vedic literatures translated by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Impressed by Srila Prabhupada's scholarship and saintliness, Bir Krishna Goswami became a member of the Krishna conscious community in Gainesville, Florida in 1971. Shortly thereafter, he was initiated as Srila Prabhupada's disciple.

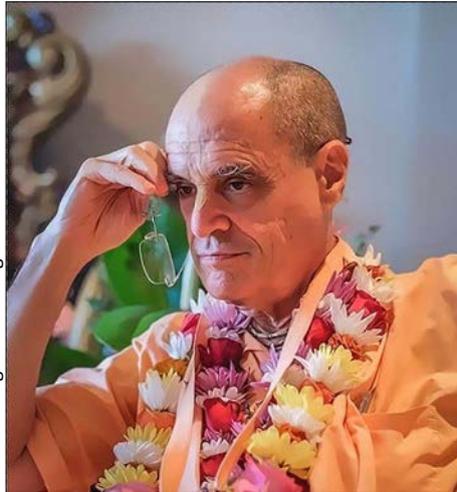


Photo: [www.gbc.iskcon.org](http://www.gbc.iskcon.org)

## APRIL CALENDAR

(from *Vaishnava calendar* [www.vaisnavacalendar.com](http://www.vaisnavacalendar.com))

1 Fri	Sri Srivasa Pandita – Appearance
2 Sat	Last day of Daylight saving (NSW)
4 Mon	Fasting for Papamochani Ekadasi
5 Tue	Dvadasi break fast 5.58 – 7.39 am
	Sri Govinda Ghosh – Disappearance
12 Tue	Sri Ramanujacarya – Appearance
14 Thu	Tulasi Jala Dana begins
15 Fri	Rama Navami: Appearance of Lord Sri Ramachandra
18 Mon	Fasting for Kamada Ekadasi
19 Tue	Dvadasi break fast 6.06 – 7.50 am
22 Fri	Sri Balarama Rasayatra
	Sri Krsna Vasanta Rasa
	Sri Vamsivadana Thakura – Appearance
	Sri Syamananda Prabhu – Appearance
29 Fri	Sri Abhirama Thakura – Disappearance

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## DAYLIGHT SAVING

On **Saturday, 2 April** after the Deities have been put to rest, all clocks and other timepieces should be put **BACK** one hour.

From **Sunday, 3 April** all Winter Sunday Feast programmes will start at **3.00 pm**, except when otherwise announced.

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!



### 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](http://bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au)

### Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast  
**Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021**