

November 2016



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



PRABHUPADA'S TIROBHAVA + GOVARDHANA PUJA + HANDS-ON CARE

GURU FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

By *Kisori devi dasi*

Srila Prabhupada was a *shaktyavesha avatar* of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, ie, the Lord was present in him via His potency and special powers. Srila Prabhupada was a *nitya-siddha* devotee – a devotee of Krishna who is eternally perfect and who agrees to come to this material world just to benefit and deliver other souls.

Having met his guru in 1922, Srila Prabhupada took to heart the instruction he received – to preach in the West and later on the instruction to print and distribute books.



Srila Prabhupada in the early days with his disciples.

Srila Prabhupada accepted formal initiation in 1933 and accepted *sannyasa* in 1959. At the time of his *sannyasa* ceremony, only the devotees living in the temple were present, as the occasion had not been advertised. Only two people understood English there, yet when Srila Prabhupada, was asked to speak at this ceremony, he did so in English, being fully focused on the mission ahead – to preach in the West.

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura had made it evident to Srila Prabhupada that Prabhupada's life was meant for preaching *bhakti-yoga*.

He spent many years reading, writing, publishing and distributing spiritual literature despite great difficulties.



Srila Prabhupada was always kind to children.

Srila Prabhupada would spend many hours chanting and praying heartfully to prepare himself and obtain the Lord's mercy and, in 1965, left for the US aboard the cargo ship *Jaladuta*.

After a difficult journey across the Atlantic, having weathered two heart attacks onboard, Srila Prabhupada



Srila Prabhupada offering arati.

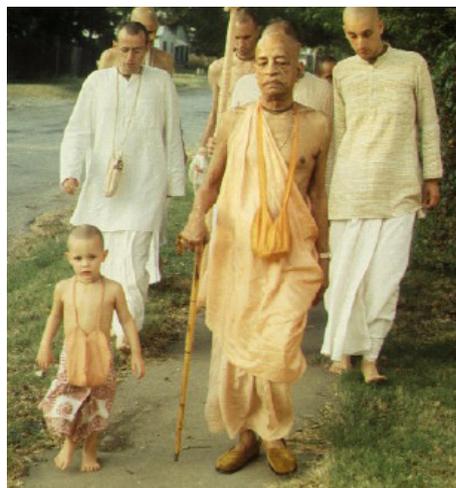
set foot in the US and established himself, initially suffering many setbacks.

Less than 12 months after arriving on American soil, ISKCON was established only by Srila Prabhupada's persistence, determination, faith and purity.

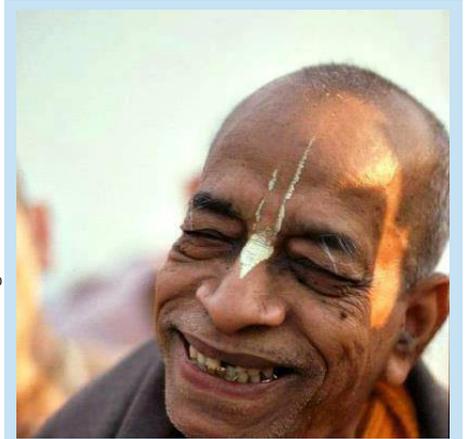
One of Srila Prabhupada's greatest contributions is his books, which he continued to translate until his last breath on 14 November 1977.

This year marks 50 years since ISKCON was formally incorporated in New York on 13 July 1966. Srila Prabhupada continues to live through his books, his instructions and his followers.

Srila Prabhupada has shown the way back to Godhead and will continue to do so for the future. 🙏



Srila Prabhupada walked regularly with his followers.



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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Translation:

Now Krishna is standing somewhere counting His cows on a string of gems. He wears a garland of *tulasi* flowers that bear the fragrance of His beloved, and He has thrown His arm over the shoulder of an affectionate cowherd boyfriend. As Krishna plays His flute and sings, the music attracts the black deer's wives, who approach that ocean of transcendental qualities and sit down beside Him. Just like us cowherd girls, they have given up all hope for happiness in family life.

Purport:

Srila Vishvanatha Chakravarti gives the following information about the transcendental cows of Vrindavana: "For each of the four colours of cows—white, red, black and yellow—there are twenty-five subdivisions, making a total of one hundred colours. And such qualities as being coloured like sandalwood-pulp *tilaka* [speckled] or having a head shaped like a *mridanga* drum create eight further groups. To count these 108 groups of cows, distinguished by colour and form, Krishna is using a string of 108 jewel-beads..."

Thus being called by name, the cows are coming forward, and Krishna, thinking that when it is time to bring them back from the forest none should be forgotten, is counting them on His jewel-beads."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.35.18–21 & purport.)

GOVARDHANA PUJA

By Vilasa devi dasi

Govardhana Puja will be celebrated on 6 November, starting at 12.30pm down at the Govardhana Parikrama Path.

Please bring your offerings of dry sweets or dry savouries for Lord Giriraja to the Deity kitchen by 12pm on 6 November. Containers to bring your *bhoga* items will be given out by myself or Kisori devi dasi.

To highlight the festive occasion, please dress up in Vrijabhasi style in turbans or sari finery! 🙏



Dress up for this joyous occasion.

CELEBRATING VAISHNAVIS

By Krishnarupa devi dasi

Last month New Govardhana's Vaishnavi Committee organised a highly successful Sunday Feast program entitled 'Celebrating Vaishnavis – Women Serving the Community Together'.

Some of the highlights were two captivating Odishi dances by Krishna Bhakti devi dasi and Sanatani Rombola. Ambika devi dasi delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation called 'Exalted Vaishnavis'.

Women *pujaris* performed the two *aratis* and all *kirtanas* led by the



Ambika devi dasi gave a lively PowerPoint presentation.

Vaishnavis until 9pm that evening. A major highlight was the delicious Sunday Feast cooked by Hari Prana devi dasi and her fired-up crew.

The Vaishnavi Committee hopes to organise more festivals like this. 🙏



Photos: Trevor Gore

The assembled devotees enjoying the Odishi dance performances.



Even the youngsters were in attendance.

HOME COOKING

By Mandakini devi dasi

Twenty Vaishnavis and a dozen children descended on Pottsville on Thursday 6 October for an interesting cooking demonstration.

Manjulali devi dasi kindly arranged the event and hosted the ladies in her beautiful new home.

Chiho Yokoyama introduced the eager group to the taste and health benefits of Japanese vegetarian dishes.

The menu consisted of *Adzuki* Bean Rice Balls, another type of rice ball called *Onigiri*, tofu dumplings and a surprisingly tasty vegetable salad that was totally oil-free.

With their individual cutting boards, all the participants, which included some of the older children, had a fun, hands-on experience preparing the items.



Photos: Supplied by Manjulali devi dasi

After everything was prepared and offered, the devotees thoroughly relished the meal.

A suggestion was made that further different cooking classes could be arranged, with Ganga devi dasi happily agreeing to host a group, teaching them how to make *dosas*!

We are hoping that the trend will continue, and eventually form a cooking club where devotees can learn the art of preparing other



(Left and Above) Devotees learn the art of Japanese cuisine at Manjulali's new Pottsville home.

national dishes, especially devotees from another heritage.

Anyone for vegetarian Bangers and Mash, Toad in the Hole or Yorkshire Pudding? 🙏

CELEBRATING GOPASHTAMI

By Damodara Pandit dasa [extracted from Mayapur.com]



Paintings by Yasoda Dulal das

On Gopashtami day, Nanda Maharaja performed a ceremony for the cows and Krishna (and His friends) in Vrindavana, as He reached the *pauganda* age [the *pauganda* age is between five and ten years old]. This was the day Nanda Maharaja sent Krishna and Balarama to herd the cows for the first time. It was a celebration meant only for men and boys.

As Srimati Radharani and Her friends wanted to enjoy the fun, and because of Her resemblance to Subala-sakha, Radharani put on his *dhoti* and garments and joined Krishna. The other gopis participated too.

Devotees remember this sweet pastime on Gopashtami day. This is a very special day in Mayapur as the residents are fortunate to have *darshana* of the most merciful lotus feet of Srimati Radharani and Her *sakhis*.

Go-puja is also observed on this day. Devotees visit the Mayapur *goshalla*, bathe and brush the cows and clean the dairy. The glories of the cow and her protection are discussed by senior devotees. All of them feed the cows and partake of a feast near the *goshalla*. 🐾



(Above) Paintings of Krishna and Balarama sporting with the cows.

WWOOFERS & ISKCON

By Bhaktine Jane

You may ask what is the purpose of including WWOOFers (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms) in ISKCON?

The Krishna Village wwoofing system or volunteer work provides people of all ages many opportunities to experience *bhakti-yoga*, which most are not familiar with.

My first real contact with ISKCON or devotees was experienced through the Krishna Village by being one of these WWOOFers. In my case the choice to live in a temple environment run by ISKCON was conscious. The opportunity to experience *bhakti-yoga* by encouragement and free choice took away my anxiety of not knowing enough and of being too curious. These are emotions that almost everyone goes through who decides to be a volunteer worker at Krishna Village.

Those initial experiences someone has with the devotees is something that they will remember throughout their whole spiritual journey. However, it can be a double-edged sword – It can either encourage or discourage a person to keep associating with devotees and grow spiritually.

Even if most of the volunteers don't become devotees, the most precious nectar is given to them. Through the holy names of Krishna and service to Him, the taste of *bhakti-yoga* will remain throughout their lives.

It is our duty to offer to others what was given to us by Srila Prabhupada: an international community, a home where we can engage in devotional service and a place where we can grow spiritually. 🐾



Photo: Krishna Village

Krishna Village volunteer at work.



(Above) Now you see it, (Below) now you don't.



Photos: Urvashi devi dasi

DID YOU KNOW?

By Govardhana Seva dasa

During the rainy season the bridge at the entrance to New Govardhana sometimes becomes impassable.

If you have to travel some distance to reach New Govardhana, it helps if you can check the river height and to know if the bridge is passable before making the journey.

One way is to Google 'Latest River Heights - Northern Rivers (NSW)'. A table will appear. Move down the first column and select 'Oxley River at Eungella', which will show you the current time and the height of the river, and whether it is 'steady', 'rising' or 'falling'.

To check the rate of the rise or fall, move across the Oxley River row to the 'Recent data' column on the right and select 'Table'. A table will appear showing the previous rise and fall of the river and the times.

IMPORTANT: Water starts to come through the surface planks of the bridge at approximately 1.8 metres. At this stage, do not attempt to cross as a sudden rise of the water level is possible. At 1.9 metres, water covers the whole floor of the surface of the bridge.

It is recommended that you do not attempt to cross the bridge at 1.6 metres if the Table indicates that the river is 'rising', particularly if it still raining. You may get across but you could get stranded on the Farm. 🐾

SUNDAY MORNING SANKIRTANA

By **Mandakini devi dasi**

Harinama sankirtana took on a whole new meaning when Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi took to the streets of Byron Bay on Sunday, 2 October. Leading the *kirtana* with gusto for more than an hour, she charmed passers-by with her captivating singing voice and playful exchanges.

Young and old succumbed to her irresistible capers, responding with high fives, thumbs up and gleeful dance manoeuvres.

The nine devotee *sankirtana* party commenced at the Byron Bay market, moved on to the jam-packed beach and concluded with a spin around town.

To everyone's delight, our fearless leader had no hesitation in entering business establishments and even local pubs to share the joy of chanting Krishna's holy names.



Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi on *Harinama*.

"It was great having our fearless leader Sri Hari Bhakti with us," says Jiva Jago [Bhakta Ezra]. "She got so many people to participate. The highlight for me was the pub exchange. We've never been in the pubs before!"

Ambarisha dasa says, "Sri Hari Bhakti was so enthusiastic and succeeded in uplifting everyone. I hope she continues to come on *harinama* with us."

"Sri Hari Bhakti enthuses everyone. I really like *harinama* when it's playful and upbeat like that," commented Caitanya dasa.

And from yours truly: "I have to say it was the most exhilarating *harinama*

I have ever experienced. The only downside being that I just couldn't keep up with her!"

For the ultimate *harinama sankirtana* experience, please contact co-ordinator Visnujana dasa on: 0498 141 021. 🐾



Mandakini devi dasi and Sri Hari Bhakti devi dasi lead kirtana at Byron Bay.

GUS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

By **Surabhi devi dasi and Mandakini devi dasi**

On Saturday, 15 October a grand party was held at New Govardhana to celebrate the 40th birthday of Angus Gaffney.

A Friend of Krishna for many years and regular visitor to the Bhakti Centre, Gold Coast, Gus decided to mark the occasion at the farm with family and friends.

Chai and blueberry muffins were served for morning tea to the 80-strong group. This was followed by a tour of the farm led by Shanti Parayana das.

Beginning at the temple, the tour continued down the hill to see the cows in the paddock, then on to the *goshalla* where recently born calf Madhuri delighted the guests. The other highlights were visiting Krishna Village and Manasi Ganga.

Before lunch, many of the ladies happily participated in the ancient art of *mehindhi* by having their hands painted by Nandini devi dasi.

A delicious feast prepared by Garuda dasa, consisting of pizza, lasagne, kofta balls, salads, sweet rice and cake was served in the *prasadam* area. Judging by all the smiling faces, everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to serve and assist Gus in making his 40th a happy and joyous occasion. 🐾



Gus and his wife Lorraine.



Farm tour led by Shanti Parayana das.

HANDS-ON CARE

By **Krishnarupa devi dasi**

A subsidiary of New Govardhana's Vaishnavi Committee is the Devotee Practical Care team, which provides assistance to devotees on a short-term basis.

Last month the members of the team rolled up their sleeves and provided delicious daily *prasadam* and some basic cleaning services to one of our dear devotees who had been incapacitated due to surgery.

Many thanks to those wonderful devotees who offered their time and excellent culinary skills – you know who you are!

If you would like to participate in any way – or if you need temporary assistance – please contact Ambika devi dasi (0434 214 186) or myself (0416 179 733). 🐾

Holy cow: calf's Krishna care a miracle



Alina Rylko | 3rd Oct 2016 11:59 AM

f 49 | [Twitter icon] | [Print icon] PRINT | [Comment icon] HAVE YOUR SAY



SACRED COW: Hare Krishna farm hand Urvasi Devi Dasi with the calf recovering from surgery to its front legs. Scott Powick

Rejected by her mother at birth and with deformities in her legs, Madhuri Adi Lila had more than a shaky start to life.

It was a cold rainy night in August when Radhika - a hand-raised cow herself - gave birth to the calf at the Hare Krishna farm, Eungella.

Farm hand Urvasi Devi Dasi said the calf was sadly rejected and left to die.

"Radhi was not at all interested in anything to do with the shivering little bundle, yet it was imperative the newborn get nutrient-rich colostrum within the first 12 hours of life," Ms Dasi said.

"The little one eagerly drank from the bottle as we sent photographs of the deformed front feet to the vet via mobile phone.

"The tendons in the front legs are too short and she is not able to extend the first joint. She can walk around in a limited fashion on her knuckles."

Last week the calf was recovering well from surgery on her tendons at the Murwillumbah Vet Clinic.

She gets physio three times a day, with the Hare community worldwide praying for the animal to recover and walk normally.

Cows are considered sacred animals in the Hare Krishna faith. 🙏



Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

The two youngest calves at New Govardhana, (L) Lota Baba and (R) Mirabai – like all the recent calves, are Gir Freisian crosses. There is one more calf due to complete the season.

BULLOCK BOULEVARD

By Krsna Kirtana dasa



This old neglected cart has been on New Govardhana for many years and with the assistance of Suratanath dasa we began cleaning, repairing, treating the metal and preparing for painting. Interestingly, when we removed the wheels to inspect and grease the axle we spotted a stamped year of manufacture of 1904 – pretty cool. We hope this cart will be used for festivals and bullock cart rides.



Enthusiastic Krishna Village Yoga Teaching Course students came to the rescue and sanding began. From L to R: Sarah, Denise, Chloe and Sam performing seva.



Sarah scribing the Maha Mantra.



Harinama Prabhu ki jai.



Almost done!

Photos: Krsna Kirtana dasa



Free your body, express yourself and make your heart sing!

The 'Power of Voice' retreats are based upon the ancient practices of *Nada* (sound) Yoga. They teach us how to breathe, think, hear, speak and sing from a place of conscious union of mind, body and spirit. Through the practice of yoga and meditation we become clear, calm and focused.

To connect to your voice from a soulful place and let it shine, we will practice energy release movement, deep breath work and mind-body connection activities. We will also explore the power of intention and visualisation, learn about the power of sound vibration and the nature of our soul, and join our voices in celebration of union with the divine.

Gitanjali is an accredited voice and yoga teacher with 30 years professional experience in the practice of yoga, voice, drama, martial arts and singing.

Don't miss out by booking early at <http://krishnavillage-retreat.com/power-of-voice-booking> 

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. Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

THE GURUKULA P&C

By *Syama Sakhi devi dasi*

At Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula, the teaching staff, administration and parents continuously work together to offer a supportive and nurturing Krishna conscious environment for all the students. One way the parents and school decided to support the students even further is through the new P&C (Parents & Community) committee.

The purpose of the P&C is to offer a platform for parents and community members to actively participate in various school activities with the aim of supporting student welfare and the ongoing growth of the school.

This year, the P&C worked on various projects like organising an Ekadashi lunch for the students at the school. This has allowed parents to encourage students to follow Ekadashi while honoring a well-balanced and nourishing meal at school, which they enjoy very much.

The P&C also participated in few fund-raising events. They had a food stall at the Ratha-yatra Festival and



Vrindaranya devi dasi helps out the P&C prasadam stall.

another at the annual Pandava Sports Carnival. Both events were a huge success as students, parents, and the community members enjoyed delicious *prasadam* preparations.



Prasadam fund-raising events help raise money for school projects.

A long-standing dream of our *gurukula* parents, which has now been taken up by the P&C, is to establish a permanent, fully equipped kitchen in the school to provide more regular *prasadam* for students.

Anyone from the community of devotees is welcomed to be involved with the *gurukula* P&C. The more devotees get involved, the more we can offer to the children and enhance their wholesome educational experience in every way!

For those who feel inspired to join the enthusiastic P&C group, please contact Keli Kadambana devi dasi at the *gurukula* office (6672 3788). The P&C meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 7 November, at 3pm.

Also, any donation such as kitchen and cooking equipment, vegetables and other cooking ingredients are very much welcomed.

We hope to inspire the devotees to join and contribute to the P&C and in that way support the school's growth and student wellbeing through their input, time and talents. 

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 and may be rejected without notice.

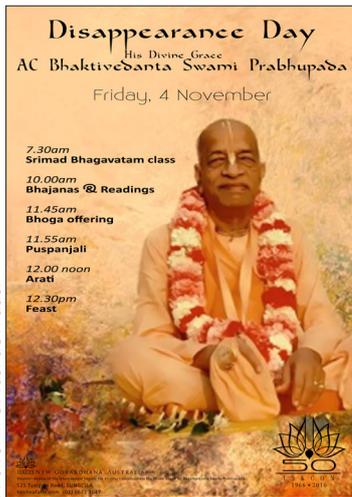


EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Urvasi devi dasi (layout and graphic design).

For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact: www.conch.org.au

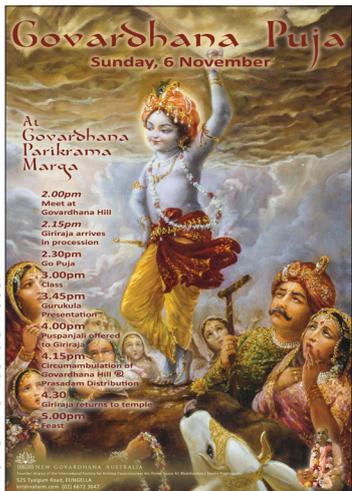
UPCOMING EVENTS



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

Srila Prabhupada Tirobhava Disappearance Festival Friday, 4 November

7.30am	Srimad-Bhagavatam Class
10am	Bhajans & readings
11.45am	Bhoga offering
11.55am	Puspanjali
12noon	Arati
12.30pm	Feast



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

Govardhana Puja Sunday, 6 November

2pm (NSW)	Meet at Govardhan Hill at Parikrama Marga
1pm (QLD)	
2.15pm	Giriraja Arrives in Procession
2.30pm	Go-Puja
3pm	Class
3.45pm	Gurukula Presentation
4pm	Puspanjali offered to Giriraja
4.15pm	Circumambulation of Govardhan Hill/Prasadam Distribution
4.30pm	Giriraja leaves back to the temple
5.00pm	Feast

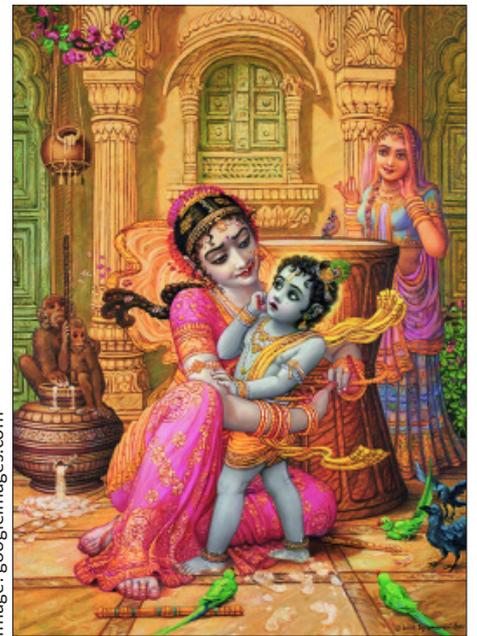


Image: googleimages.com

Damodara Masa (month of Damodara) finishes 14 November.

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

Darshan arati 7am
Class 7.30am



Photo: googleimages.com

His Holiness Ramai Swami 8–12 November

Ramai Swami will be giving classes during his visit to New Govardhana.

Please check krishnafarm.com for details as they become available.

HARINAMA
SANKIRTANA KI JAYA!



Daily at various locations
Contact **Garuda dasa** for details
garuda108das@hotmail.com

Sunday Mornings
Northern NSW & Gold Coast
Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

4 Fri	Srila Prabhupada – Disappearance (Fast till noon)
6 Sun	Celebrate Govardhana Puja at New Govardhana
8 Tue	Gopastami Sri Gadadhara Dasa Goswami – Disappearance Sri Srinivasa Acarya – Disappearance
11 Fri	Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi Srila Gaura Kisora Dasa Babaji – Disappearance (Fasting till noon, with Feast tomorrow) First Day of Bhisma Pancaka
12 Sa	Dvadasi: Break fast 5.46 – 10.16 am
14 Mon	Sri Krsna Rasayatra Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha (marriage) Sri Nimbarkacarya – Appearance Last day of Damodara Masa (month of Damodara)
15 Tue	Katyayani Vrata begins
25 Fri	Fasting for Utpanna Ekadasi
26 Sat	Dvadasi: Break fast 5.41 – 10.16 am