

June 2017



# THE CONCH

[www.conch.org.au](http://www.conch.org.au)

“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthruse the devotees.”

**NEWSLETTER**

New Govardhana Community



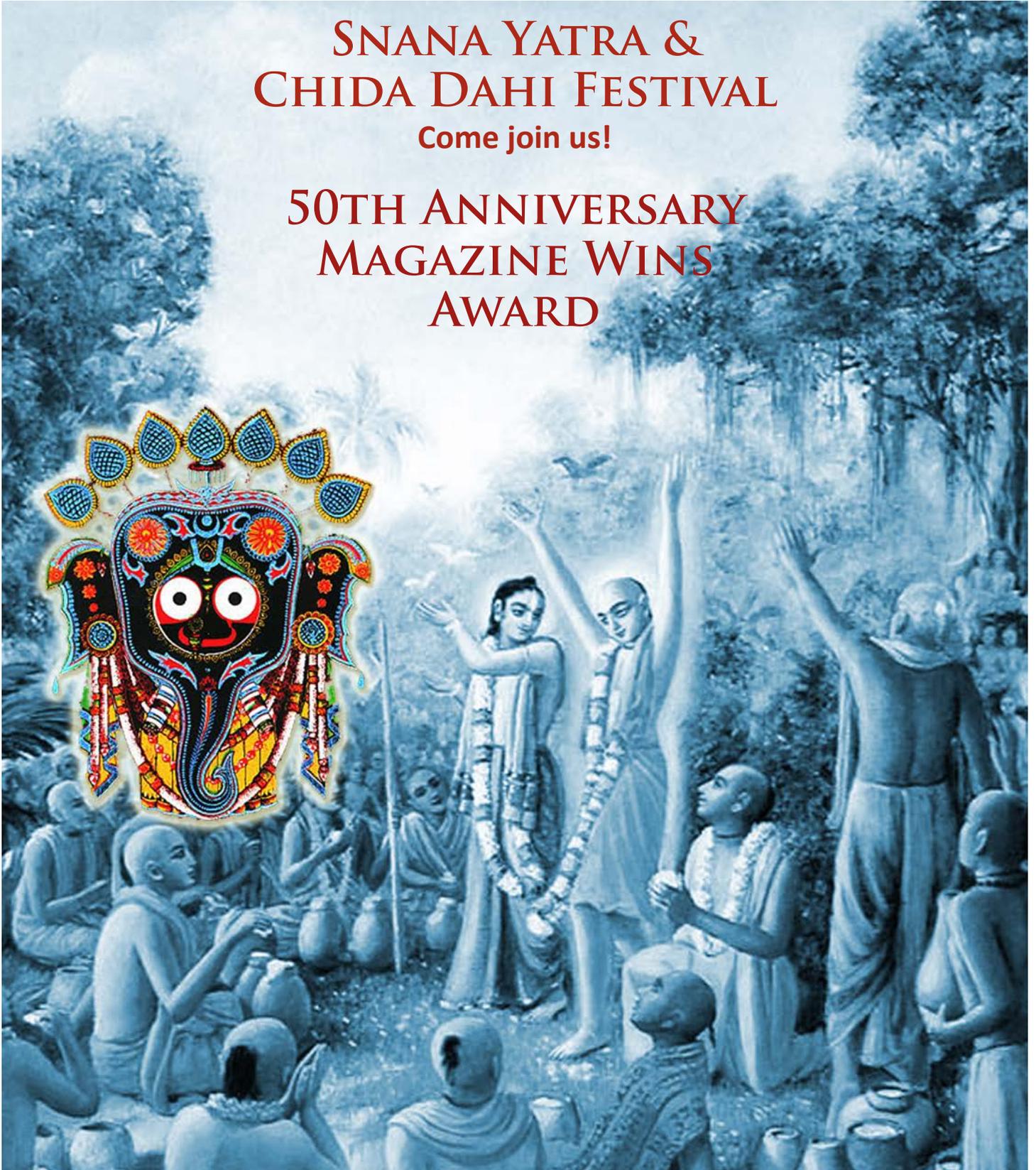
krishnafarm.com

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

## SNANA YATRA & CHIDA DAHI FESTIVAL

Come join us!

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE WINS AWARD



KIDS PLAYGROUP + GURUKULA WORK EXPERIENCE + GOVARDHANA ADIEU

# FESTIVAL OF THE CHARIOTS

By Ambika devi dasi

Early next month, the New Govardhana community celebrates Ratha-yatra. Ratha-yatra, or 'Festival of the Chariots' originated in Jagannatha Puri in eastern India, and has been held annually for thousands of years. It takes place in June/July each year and is attended by millions.

Usually the Deities of Lord Jagannatha, Balarama and Subhadra are worshipped within the temple of Jagannatha Puri, but on the day of the Rath-yatra festival They are taken through the streets, so that everyone can have the good fortune of seeing Their beautiful forms.

Richly decorated chariots, resembling temple structures, are pulled through the streets of Jagannatha Puri. In this way, the annual journey of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama, and their sister Subhadra to the Gundica Temple takes place. This Gundica temple is situated 2km from Their massive temple in the centre of Puri.

Those attending the festival have an earnest desire to help pull the chariots with long ropes at the front of each cart. Everyone sings the holy names of the Lord, accompanied by drums, tambourines and *kartalas*. Children also enjoy pulling the ropes and singing the Lord's holy names for Their pleasure.



The smiling face of Lord Jagannatha, in Puri, Odisha, India

This festival represents the Lord's dear *gopi* devotees taking Him from His opulent situation in Kurukshetra 5000 years ago, back to rural Vrindavana, so that they may again serve Him and please Him in



Millions flock to the Ratha-yatra in Odisha, India.

the intimate environment of the Vrindavana forest.

As devotees pull the ropes, they are praying to Krishna that they may pull Him into their hearts. The festival is therefore a very joyous and prayerful occasion.

This Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on 9 July, 1967 in San Francisco, under the supervision of ISKCON's Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

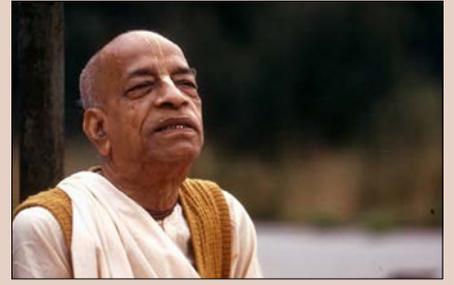
Since that first parade in 1967, Ratha-yatra has been performed repeatedly in many major cities in the world, providing uplifting devotional *kirtanas*, wonderful *darshanas* of the transcendental forms of the Lord, plenty of vibrant colour and an atmosphere saturated in spiritual happiness. 🙏

Source: [www.mirathyatra.com](http://www.mirathyatra.com)

## NEW GOVARDHANA RATHA-YATRA

New Govardhana will be celebrating Ratha-yatra on 2 July. Please mark your calendars for one of New Govardhana's biggest event of the year.

Photo: blog.devoteematch.com



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

## Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

When the shopkeepers of many other villages heard about the festival [Chida Dahi Utsava], they arrived there to sell chipped rice, yogurt, sweetmeats and bananas. As they came, bringing all kinds of food, Raghunatha dasa purchased it all. He gave them the price for their goods and later fed them the very same food. Anyone who came to see how these funny things were going on was also fed chipped rice, yogurt and bananas.

After Lord Nityananda Prabhu finished eating, He washed His hands and mouth and gave Raghunatha dasa the food remaining in the four pots. There was food remaining in the three other big pots of Lord Nityananda, and a *brahmana* distributed it to all the devotees, giving a morsel to each. Then a *brahmana* brought a flower garland, placed the garland on Nityananda Prabhu's neck and smeared sandalwood pulp all over His body.

When a servant brought betel nuts and offered them to Lord Nityananda, the Lord smiled and chewed them. With His own hands Lord Nityananda Prabhu distributed to all the devotees whatever flower garlands, sandalwood pulp and betel nuts remained.

After receiving the remnants of food left by Lord Nityananda Prabhu, Raghunatha dasa, who was greatly happy, ate some and distributed the rest among his own associates. Thus have I described the pastimes of Lord Nityananda Prabhu in relation to the celebrated festival of chipped rice and yogurt.

Excerpt from *Caitanya-caritamrta*, *Antya Lila*, Chapter 6

## VALUED CONCH MEMBER DEPARTS

By *Krishnarupa devi dasi*

On Sunday, 30 April a much-loved member of the New Govardhana community and highly valued editorial board participant on *The Conch* newsletter peacefully left his body at home in Murwillumbah.

After nine years of battling cancer and kidney failure, Govardhana Seva dasa's heart began to fail. He decided, in consultation with his beloved wife, Ekadasi devi dasi, Doctor Wellum, their local doctor, and his kidney specialist, Doctor Krishnan Sankunni, to cease his home dialysis treatment, and to leave his body at home, as his end was near.

With many devotees chanting all day for more than 10 days in their home, daily skype calls from his spiritual master, Janananda Goswami, and scripture readings, Govardhana Seva

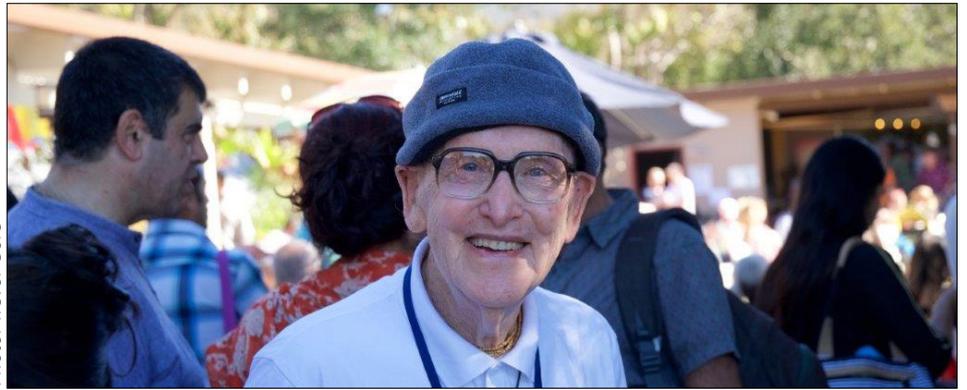


Photo: Trevor Gore

*Govardhana Seva dasa was an active and much-loved member of the ISKCON community at New Govardhana.*

was peaceful and joyful right to the end.

Govardhana Seva's usual wits and stock of jokes was still evident as he sweetly said his goodbyes to all of us left here to miss him so greatly.

Govardhana Seva's wife, Ekadasi, and their three sons, Steven, Gary and David said, "I would also like to thank everyone who helped Govardhana Seva through their thoughts, *kirtana*,

flower gifts, bringing *prasadam*, and being so helpful in many ways. Your support was very much appreciated."

Thank you Govardhana Seva for being such a joy, greeting guests to New Govardhana, devotedly working on our community newsletter and being a friend to all.

We will miss you so very much – until we meet again, dear Govardhana Seva Prabhu. 🙏

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

By *Syama Sakhi devi dasi*

From the 10–14 April, the Year 10 students went for their first work experience this year. After the success of the program in 2016, the school decided to continue encouraging the students to experience different work placements throughout their Year 10 studies. Thus, Karuna, Cintamani, Balaram, Vrinda, Gemini and Kalindi had the opportunity to spend a week at a job environment of their choice.



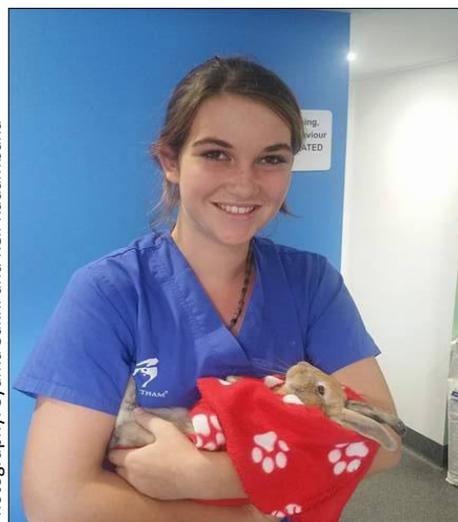
*Gemini at Crystal Warehouse, Byron Bay.*

Karuna, being interested in law, worked at the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre in Lismore, while Gemini was placed at the Crystal Warehouse in Byron Bay. Cintamani did a sterling job, juggling two employers at once, working for KidzKlub Australia and The Byron Bay Community Centre. Balaram spent the week working as a kitchen aid at the Cardamom Pod in Broadbeach. Vrinda decided to try work in the Kingscliff library, and Kalindi spent her week at the Vet station in town.

The overall feedback from their employers was marvellous. The employers were very pleased with the students' diligence, keen attention to detail, ability to take responsibility, and their overall mood and attitude.

We were very pleased to hear such positive feedback from the employers as it reflected the wonderful attitude of the Hare Krishna School students. And what a delightful preaching opportunity it was to see these young devotees enter into the workforce while making a strong positive impression about themselves, their beliefs and their Hare Krishna community.

It is a delightful privilege to see these young devotee students grow into responsible and caring citizens. We wish them all the best and congratulate them on their success in this work experience program. 🙏



Photography: Syama Sakhi and Keil Kadambana

*Kalindi at the vet station in town.*



*Vrinda at Kingscliff Library.*

# KIDS PLAYGROUP

By Lalita Ickrath

A weekly playgroup has formed at New Govardhana temple for children aged up to four years old. The idea was born when I realised that there was no regular arrangement for the young kids to meet and play at the temple, aside from the busy Sunday feast program.

The playgroup meets on Wednesdays 10.30am–12.30pm on the grass area in front of the temple during school term time, with the option to stay for lunch *prasadam* served at 12.30pm. We would like to welcome all parents of young children to take this wonderful opportunity for their children (and themselves!) to socialise in a Krishna conscious environment.

Please note that a parent or guardian must be present with the child for the entire playgroup session.

The playgroup is free, but we ask participants to donate some toys or craft supplies (second-hand or new) or to give a small financial contribution so that the organisers are able to buy these items.

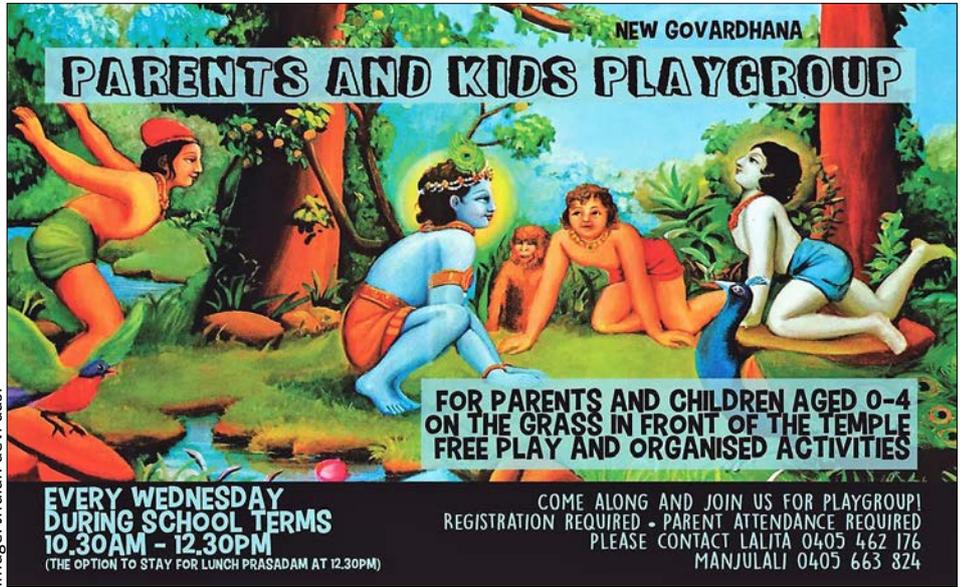


Image: Jhulan devi dasi

The playgroup is a relaxed environment and flows in the direction set by the children, a mixture of free play and some organised activities, depending on the age of the children present.

Playgroups run nicely when they are a shared responsibility between all involved parents, so your input and suggestions on activities are welcomed and encouraged. If you have a special skill or knowledge in an area, we would love for you to share it.

All members of the New Govardhana community are welcome to donate to the playgroup any toys or equipment they no longer need. 🙌

## PLAYGROUP

For more information or to register, please contact either Lalita on 0405 462 176 or Manjulali devi dasi on 0405 663 824 or via New Govardhana Playgroup on Facebook.

# THE AFTERMATH

By Kisori devi dasi

The flood in April has come and gone, after doing great damage to many. Now most of the cleaning has been done, but many people are now feeling overwhelmed about how to rebuild their properties and their lives.

Depression and anxiety might be creeping in, and there might be a sense of not coping. Please see your GP and have a chat if you need to. Help is also available at Lifeline, which is open 24 hours on 13 11 14, and NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 for more details and referral information.

Photo: AU News Yahooo



Photo: www.echo.net.au



Photo: Jason-Alison Dittmar



Scenes from the devastation caused by Cyclone Debbie in the Murwillumbah area.

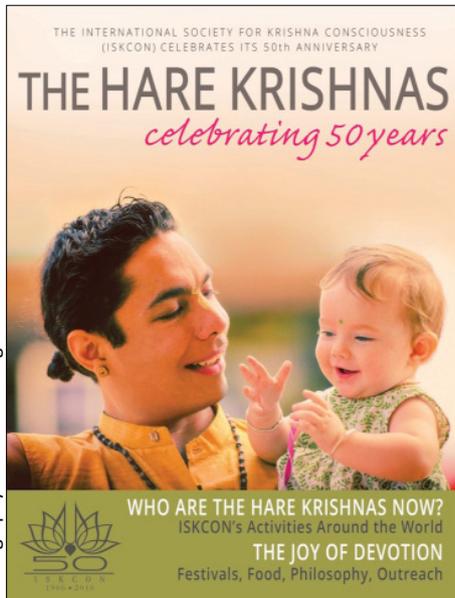
# ISKCON COMMUNICATIONS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

From [iskconnews.org](http://iskconnews.org)

At the 2017 Religion Communicators Council (RCC) annual DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Awards ceremony in Chicago, Illinois on 30 March, ISKCON Communications won several awards for excellence in religion communications.

*The Hare Krishnas – Celebrating 50 years* magazine won a merit award for single-issue periodicals and an award for excellence in overall design. In addition, *The Joy of Devotion* film won a Best of Class award.

The panel of judges for the awards, which included journalism professors and newspaper editors from both religious and secular organisations, praised *The Joy of Devotion* film, saying: “It was an excellent



Photography: [iskconnews.org](http://iskconnews.org)

The award-winning *The Hare Krishnas – Celebrating 50 years* magazine.

production that invokes emotional and spiritual connections and increases understanding.”

Anuttama dasa, International Minister of Communications, accepted the



ISKCON Communications won several awards for excellence in religion communications.

Best of Class award on behalf of ISKCON Communications and the film’s creator and director, Krishnaila dasi, as well as his co-producers on the film Bhakti Caru Swami and Pancharatna dasa.

He also accepted the awards of excellence and merit on behalf of the 50<sup>th</sup> magazine’s executive editors, Mukunda Goswami and Krishnarupa devi dasi, project manager Bhakta dasa, designer Ramprasad dasa and the rest of the editorial staff. 🙏

## PIZZA NIGHT

By *Mandakini devi dasi*

Six months ago, Krishna Village Agricultural and Volunteer Manager Damodara Govinda dasa and Kitchen Manager Sanatani Rombola decided to modernise and enhance the popular Friday Pizza Night. Since then pizza nights have truly been on fire!

With the help of volunteers, they researched how to build a new oven to replace the old one, which was falling apart and restricted to producing only one pizza at a time.

The subsequent new model cooks three at a time and Sanatani claims, with the improved flour recipes, the taste is “amazing”. Instead of using just white self-raising flour, a mix of quality wholewheat and plain flour without any additives is making the difference. The dough is also prepared the previous day.

When available, fresh vegetables from the garden are used. With the present surplus of basil, Sanatani has created a new tasty vegan pesto topping.

Vegan mozzarella and gluten-free recipes also feature on the

menu, keeping everyone happy. The gathering area has also been upgraded and the overhead cover provides protection from the rain. A cheerful bonfire completes the scene.

Dining commences at 5.30pm in the winter and 6.30pm in the summer.

*Kirtana* and various improvised entertainment is relished by the guests and volunteers who look forward to Fridays, signalling the end of the working week.

Pizza prices are \$12 or \$15. 🙏



Photo: [www.krishnavillage-retreat.com](http://www.krishnavillage-retreat.com)

Sanatani Rombola preparing pizza at the Krishna Village.

# ROOM TO GROW

By Venugopal dasa

It seems almost everyone likes mangos – after all, it is the king of fruits and the fruit of kings. So we are certainly blessed to have plentiful mangos growing here on New Govardhana. Even in a bad season, of which we have many, there is still an abundance of fruits to be found for Shri Shri Radha Govardhanadhari.

Everything about mango trees is beneficial. The fruits, the leaves, the flowers and the bees, the timber – even the shade of the mango tree – are auspicious.

## THE BACKGROUND

In the mid 1990s, about 95 young mango trees were purchased from a defunct mango farm on Old Lismore Road. Unfortunately, due to lack of manpower, they remained in their pots for nearly two years, taking the brunt of neglect from devotees and much gastronomic abuse from the bullocks.

But mangos are tough and despite not much water and regular bullock munching, most survived their wild turbulent youth in those under-sized pots.



Photo: Courtesy Google Images

Young mango sapplings.

I remember visiting New Govardhana one time and to my great surprise I saw those mangos trees all planted out around the temple grounds and top orchard.

However, there was a problem – they had been planted too close together. These little trees grew healthy and strong and, despite the unpredictable nature of good mango seasons in this area, they have managed to supply mangos most years. There has also

been the odd season of plenty with so many mangos that we would freeze them for use throughout the year.

After 25-odd years these once little mango trees have become incredibly crowded out and totally intertwined. The inevitable time arrived to finally do something.

Heavy pruning took place last month with the help of a professional arborist. The trees will benefit enormously with room to rejuvenate with vigour and strength. Also, the *vastu* of the temple compound is now free from claustrophobic inauspiciousness, having opened up the northern aspect. The wood from the cuttings will be saved and stored for future fire *yajnas*. (Mango timber is considered one of the best of all fuels in this regard.)

As a side note, I recently had to thin out and replant a heavily populated, intertwined *tulasi* grove. They were all suffering the effects of being planted too close to each other. Now the results speak for themselves. They are all so much healthier, stronger and more blissful. Of course, we don't prune *tulasi* but heavy pruning methods are regularly employed with many trees and plants like rose bushes, grapes vines and older mangos trees with remarkable results. 🙏

# PASTURE LANDS

By Manjulali devi dasi

At New Govardhana, the general policy of the cow department is that as we encroach on cow land, and cows lose pastures due to construction works or new roads, we try and replace that land by pasture improvement or clearing areas that have been overtaken by camphor laurels and other weeds.

Therefore, while the earthmoving equipment is here we are clearing behind the temple and Gokula dasa and Vilasa Manjari devi dasi's house, where we've lost land due to the forest impinging on the cow pasture.

As the cow/bull program expands, so also does the need for clear pastures. Krsna Kirtan dasa and Bhaktine Clare are establishing daily training in front of Gokula and Vilasa's house so the bulls learn to pull and till

the fields. Some of the cows are also coming over from Gita Govinda devi dasi's side. 🙏

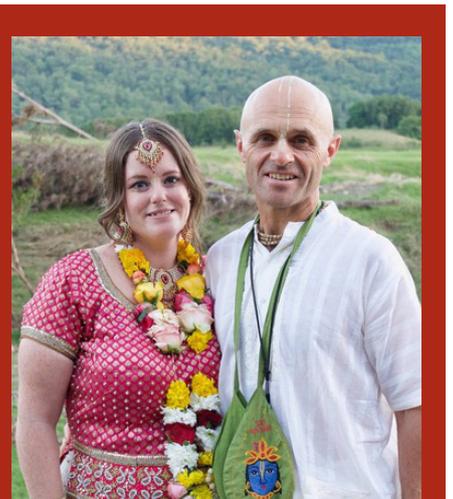


Photo: Kisorfi devi dasi



Photo: Clare Meehan

Some of the lush pasturing grounds of New Govardhana.



In April Jyestha devi dasi and Rupa Raganatha dasa were married at Riva Vue, Murwillumbah. Congratulations to the happy couple.

# BULLOCK BOULEVARD



Photo: Kisori devi dasi

*Bir Krsna Goswami meets the bullocks.*



Photo: Kisori devi dasi

*Bir Krsna Goswami comes to see the bullock training program. He made a video that is available on his Facebook page. He was most impressed with how well the bullocks were trained.*



Photo: Nitai Chandra das

*(Above) Krsna Kirtan dasa heading out with bullocks Gaura and Nitai.*



Photo: Kisori devi dasi

*(Left) Nrsimhananda holds the two bullocks in readiness to be yoked. These two bullocks have been trained to pull a heavy cart, which can be used as a means of transportation for people or produce.*



Photo: Krishna Kirtan das

*Sri Gandharvika devi dasi long-rein trains big Shanti.*



Photo: Sri Gandharvika devi dasi

*Nitai Chandra dasa walking big Balah.*

## 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 [caroeditor@gmail.com](mailto:caroeditor@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 and may be rejected without notice.



**EDITORIAL BOARD:**  
 Damodara Pandit dasa, Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Manjulali devi dasi.

**LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:**  
 Urvasi devi dasi and Jhulan devi dasi.

**FOR ENQUIRIES, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS**  
 Contact: [www.conch.org.au](http://www.conch.org.au)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Snana Yatra & Chida Dahi Utsova**  
Sunday, 11 June  
All Welcome!

**12pm** Arati & Kirtan  
**12.30pm** Class  
**1pm** Snana Yatra  
**2.30pm** Panihati Auction  
**4pm** Arati & kirtan  
**Hati Vesa darshan**  
**4.45pm** Deities leave the temple in procession  
**5pm** Feast

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA  
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484  
www.krishnafarm.com  
For more information please contact 02 6672 3047

Poster Artwork: Urvasi devi dasi

## Snana Yatra / Panihati Festivals Sunday, 11 June 2017

12pm	Arati and kirtana
12.30pm	Class
1pm	Snana yatra
2.30pm	Panihati auction
4pm	Arati kirtana – Hati Vesa darshan
4.45pm	Deities leave temple in procession
5pm	Feast

**Mayapur Chandras**  
13, 14, 15 & 16 June

**Srimad-Bhagavatam Classes**  
given by Naru Gopal dasa  
14, 15 & 16 June

**Gaura Lila discussions and Kirtan @ 5pm**  
with Naru Gopal dasa, Bhakti Vinod dasa & Narahari dasa  
13, 14 & 15 June

A department of ISKCON Mayapur, this group of second generation devotees are all expertly trained in the various devotional arts, and come together to spread the traditional Gaudiya Vaisnava culture of Sri Mayapur Dhama to centers around the world.

They also organize different pilgrimages in Gaura Mandala Bhumi, including a 6 day Kartika Navadwip Mandala Parikrama during the month of Kartika, attended by 200 international devotees. They also organize the kirtan melas in Mayapur.

www.facebook.com/Mayapur.Chandras for more details

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA  
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484  
www.krishnafarm.com  
For more information please contact 02 6672 3047

## Mayapur Chandras 13 – 16 June 2017

A department of ISKCON Mayapur, this group of second generation devotees are all expertly trained in the various devotional arts, and come together to spread the traditional Gaudiya Vaisnava culture of Sri Mayapur Dhama to centres around the world. Mayapur Chandras organise different pilgrimages in Gaura Mandala Bhumi.

**Srimad-Bhagavatam Classes**  
given by Naru Gopal dasa  
14, 15 & 16 June

**Gaura Lila Discussions and Kirtana at 5pm**  
with Naru Gopal dasa, Bhakti Vinod dasa and Narahari dasa  
14, 15 & 16 June

**Bhaktivinoda Thakura**  
*Tirobhava Mahotsava*  
Disappearance Day Celebration  
Saturday  
June 24

**7.30am** Class on Bhaktivinoda Thakura  
**10am** Bhajanas & readings  
**11.45am** Prasada offered to Bhaktivinoda Thakura  
**11.50am** Puspanjali  
**12pm** Guru puja, arati & kirtana  
**12.30pm** Feast

"This temporary life is full of miseries. Take shelter of the holy name as your only business."

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA  
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA 2484  
www.krishnafarm.com  
For more information please contact 02 6672 3047

## Bhaktivinoda Thakura Disappearance Day Saturday, 24 June 2017

7.30am	Class on Bhaktivinoda Thakura
10am	Bhajanas and readings
11.45am	Prasada offered to Bhaktivinoda Thakura
11.50am	Puspanjali
12pm	Guru puja, arati and kirtana
12.30pm	Feast

# JUNE CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaishnavacalendar.com)

4 Sun	Baladeva Vidyabhusana – disappearance Gangamata Gosvami – disappearance Ganga Puja
5 Mon	Ekadasi – Pandava Nirjala Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
6 Tue	Dvadasi – Break fast 6.32am–10am
7 Wed	Panihati Cida Dahi Utsava
9 Fri	Snana yatra
11 Sun	Panihati Cida Dahi Utsava Snana yatra observed today
20 Tue	Ekadasi (not suitable for fasting) Srivasa Pandita – disappearance
21 Wed	Dvadasi – Yogini Ekadasi (suitable for fasting)
22 Thu	Trayodasi – Break fast 6.38am–10.04am
24 Sat	Gadadhara Pandita – disappearance Bhaktivinoda Thakura – disappearance (fast today)
25 Sun	Gundica Marjana
26 Mon	Ratha-yatra Svarupa Damodara – disappearance

**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