



July 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

JAYA JAGANNATHA

The Chariot is Coming

CLEAN THE TEMPLE

Clean Your Heart - Gundica Marjana

ISKCON'S 50TH

Fast Approaching

INROADS

at New Govardhana



www.bingimages.com.au

SRI LA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALLA GOSS + SNAPSHOTS + UPCOMING EVENTS



RATHA-YATRA FESTIVAL

By Ambika devi dasi

Thousands of years ago, in Eastern India, a great devotee king, Maharaja Indradyumna, had Lord Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra carved from a special log, installed in a grand temple, and worshipped opulently.

Their forms embody ecstasy. When Krishna, Balarama and Subhadra were once eavesdropping on the recounting of Krishna's intimate pastimes with the *gopis*, Their limbs retracted inside Their bodies and Their eyes and smiles grew huge. These are the amazing forms of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Lady Subhadra – the Lord of the universe, His transcendental brother and sister.

Annually, They take a ride in Their chariots at Jagannatha Puri in India and now all over the world. This is due to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who brought the festival to the Western world, after celebrating it in

miniature form in Calcutta throughout his childhood.

The spiritual significance of the journey is the *gopis*, the greatest lovers of Krishna, bringing Him, along with His brother and sister, back to rural Vrindavana from the dazzling splendour of Dvaraka where They had lived for many years. The *gopis* loved Krishna as a cowherd boy, and wished to see Him in that form, rather than in the opulent royal dress of a king, surrounded by soldiers and attendants. Therefore this Festival of the Chariots is an experience imbued with emotion.

Srila Prabhupada has said that when a person is dying and is seeing his life flash before his eyes, if he has taken part in Ratha-yatra, the picture of Their Lordships will come in his mind, and will remain there, allowing the person to take a spiritual body in the next life. Therefore it is extremely beneficial to take hold of the ropes to pull the chariot of the Lord and to chant His Holy Names in front of His divine smiling form. 🙏

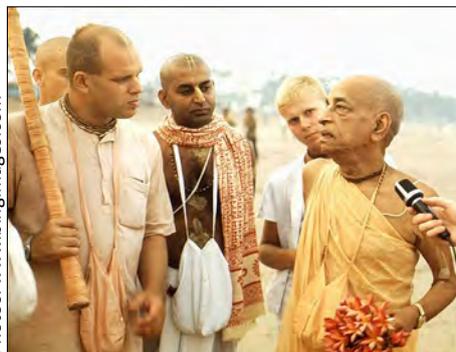
BRAHMANANDA PRABHU DEPARTS THIS WORLD

By Padma devi dasi

On Monday, 7 June, Brahmananda Prabhu left his body in Vrindavana Dhama. Brahmananda was Srila Prabhupada's second initiated devotee in the West and was very dear to him. Having first met Srila Prabhupada in 1966, Brahmananda immediately wanted to become Prabhupada's student, and started to serve his spiritual master from that time onwards.

He served in the capacity of ISKCON's first Temple President (in New York) and as Prabhupada's Secretary. He also began ISKCON's preaching mission in Africa. Brahmananda brought his younger

brother Gargamuni dasa to Krishna consciousness. In his later years, both brothers produced multimedia DVDs and CDs of Srila Prabhupada's lectures and pastimes. Brahmananda was also responsible for the first publishing of Prabhupada's *Bhagavad-gita As It Is* and the *Krishna* book. He will be much missed by all who knew him. All glories to Brahmananda Prabhu! 🙏



L. HG Brahmananda Prabhu and R. Srila Prabhupada.

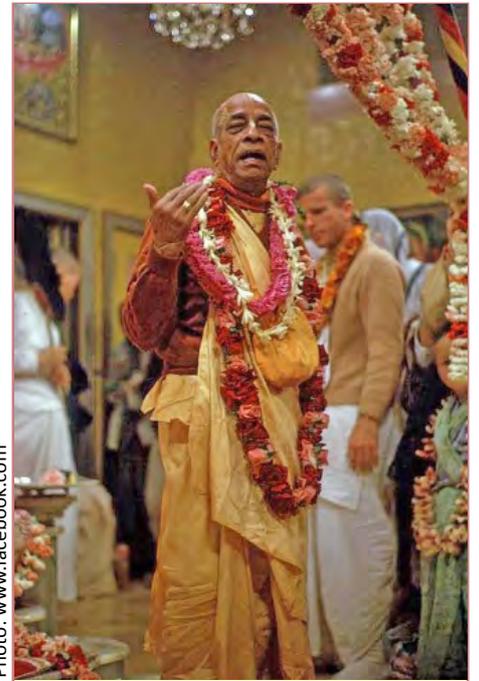


Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca
Rathayatra car festival and
Gundica Marjana.

Before the Rathayatra festival, the system is Jagannatha goes from the temple to another place about two miles away. There is a big temple there also which is called Jagannatha Aunt's house, *Mahine badi*. So He stays there for eight days. Just like we make programme in San Francisco to reside on seaside.

So that temple was to be washed. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu used to do it by His personal supervision. So all the devotees ... and He will check how much dust you have recovered, and then you shall be rewarded. Otherwise, it should be understood that you have not laboured nicely [chuckles]. So He'll sweep over the whole temple nicely and wash the ceilings and walls and everything so clearly. And He'll see in this way if there is any sand. If there is, "Oh, it is not washed." That means He would engage everyone.

Then after washing, then call for *prasadam* and distribute it Himself. This is called Gundica Marjana. Actually, whatever He was doing, they were washing, "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna," chanting. That's all.

Lord Chaitanya Play told to Tamala Krishna – 4 August 1969, Los Angeles

GUNDICA MARJANA – CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

By *Kisori devi dasi*

The cleansing of the Gundica temple, called Gundica Marjana, takes place the day before Ratha-yatra, in preparation for the arrival of Lord Jagannatha.

When Lord Caitanya was residing in Jagannatha Puri, He cleaned the Gundica temple, which represents Vrindavana.

Ratha-yatra represents pulling the Lord back to Vrindavana (Gundica temple), after a long separation from the residents of Vrindavana.

Lords Jagannatha, Baladeva and Lady Subhadra stay in the Gundica temple for eight days before They return to Their main temple.

In preparation for the Lord's arrival at the Gundica temple, Lord Caitanya asked permission from the authorities to clean it. The authorities were most respectful and immediately arranged hundreds of waterpots and brooms for Lord Caitanya and His followers.

Firstly all the straw, dust and grains of sand were swept into one place, collected in the top cloths of the cleaners and thrown outside the temple in piles. During the process Lord Caitanya would observe how well each devotee was cleaning, and He would praise and correct accordingly. Lord Caitanya collected so much debris from the temple that His pile was larger than all of the devotees put together.

The temple was then cleaned for a second time to collect finer grains of sand and dust that might have been missed.

This was followed by washing the ceiling, walls and floor. Lord Caitanya personally washed the sitting place of Lord Jagannatha and even used His own cloth to mop and polish.

Even then, He was concerned that dust from outside would come inside, so He and His devotees also cleaned and threw water outside the temple.

All through this process, everyone was chanting the Hare Krishna mantra, even when passing waterpots to each other.

In the *Caitanya-caritamrta* it is stated that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu washed and cleansed the Gundica

temple with His devotees and associates. In this way, He made it as cool and bright as His own heart, and thus He made the temple a befitting place for Lord Sri Krishna to reside.

After the temple had been cleansed, it became very purified, cooling and pleasing, just as if the Lord's own mind appeared there. Indeed, after everything had been washed, the minds of the devotees were as clean as the rooms.

By this pastime, Lord Caitanya instructed us on how we should receive Krishna within our hearts. Our hearts must be fully purified to receive Lord Krishna in it. 🙏



Photos: www.bingimages.com

Lord Caitanya cleans Gundica Temple.



DID YOU KNOW?

... that Mukunda Goswami's new book *Spirit Matters* has been released by Torchlight Publishing and is now also available as an e-book.

It should be available at the Temple Shop in the near future.

The book is a compilation of Mukunda Goswami's articles published in the *Hindustan Times*, discussing topics related to war, peace and love.

ISKCON'S 50TH FAST APPROACHING



By *Mukunda Goswami*

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land." If the longest journeys begin with the first step, then at minimum that first step should be taken. Doing what I know I can do in my limited sphere of influence is extremely important. Every member of ISKCON can take the first step.

Many of us New Govardhanites hope that ISKCON's Golden Jubilee occasion (celebrating 50 years of ISKCON's existence) will not turn out to be a non-event. Each of us can do something special, something extra, something small maybe, but *something* – to honour the Golden Anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's movement, originally incorporated in New York in July of 1966.

Thinking "big" should also be encouraged. Srila Prabhupada is known for saying that his only flaw was that he could not think small. Doing something magnificent globally is indeed a "consummation devoutly to be wished", in the words of Hamlet.

We have to dream, because dreams can come true. "Shoot the rhinoceros" is a familiar refrain that can be dug out of our repertoire. The late Sridhar Swami once told us, "If it's difficult, it will take a long time; if its impossible, it will take a little longer. 🙏

IN MEMORY

Maha Manta dasa would like to thank all who organised and participated in the memorial for his son Narayana who passed away in June. Many of his friends and family attended a special kirtan in his honour and sent him out on a high note.



A precious relic from the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre. Sri Gadadhar Pandit's Srimad-Bhagavatam 10th Canto with comments by Sri Caitanya Mahāprabhu (on tree bark).

THE BHAKTIVEDANTA RESEARCH CENTRE

Derived from the internet by Govardhana Seva dasa

Recently we were privileged to have Hari Sauri visiting New Govardhana and sharing his knowledge with us.

After spending many years as Srila Prabhupada's personal secretary, Hari Sauri became motivated to start a research centre and preserve everything possible pertaining to the Gaudiya Vaishnava past.

In 2008, an Indian devotee named Sharma Suka donated a run-down six unit apartment block in Calcutta and this was the beginning of the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC). Shortly afterwards Hari Sauri met Pranava Prabhu, who had a PhD, spoke seven languages and could

read ten. He told Hari Sauri that he had 4000 books and handwritten documents, written in Bengali, which he was going to export to Oxford University Museum and Library, because he didn't know of anywhere in Calcutta where he could safely store them.

Hari Sauri persuaded him to use the books and documents to start the library in the BRC. Hari Sauri immediately began to refurbish one of the apartment units to act as a library. He completed this in six months and installed the 4000 books and other publications. After the opening of the library he met several interested people including Acyutananda, Sudaputa (Richard Thompson), and Sundaranda Vidyabhinode, who between them donated a further 11,000 books, publications and handwritten documents. These included many rare handwritten documents, among them some from Srila Prabhupada, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur and

even some from Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur. Now the BRC Library was truly established.

The Library has recently purchased a specialised scanner, which is designed not to damage sensitive old documents. They have now begun the painstaking task of scanning every page of every book, document and handwritten items in the Library. This will ensure that there is an electronic record of every page.

The other five units in the apartment block have now been converted in self-contained units, where students and visitors can stay while studying subjects in the Library such as the Vedas, Vedic Astrology, Vaishnavism and many others.

Hari Sauri's full lecture on the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, with photos can be viewed at: <http://iskconleaders.com/lecture-on-bhaktivedanta-research-centre-by-hari-sauri-prabhu-in-iskcon-chowpatty/> 

GOSHALLA GOSS

By Venugopal dasa

A new *goshalla* is vital for the present and future well-being of the cows. Presently we are still held up in a makeshift facility that we set up seven years ago with little funds, but lots of volunteer help. The shed has served its purpose well over the years, but we have now seriously outgrown it. It is also very dilapidated, beyond repair.

Our programme now is to build new *goshalla* and dairy facility that is purpose-built for all the needs of the cows, complete with milk processing kitchen, *gobar* gas tanks

and education facilities to teach interested persons the science and benefits of cow protection.

There will also be two self-contained, eco friendly, cabins included in the plan, that will be used for farm stay retreat programmes centered around life with cows.

The proposed new location is an elevated site in the area where Lagudi dasa used to live. It affords great visibility and access to all the pastures.

Conceptual planning stages are well under way. The next stage is raising the funds to complete the project, with an estimated cost between \$350K and \$450K. 

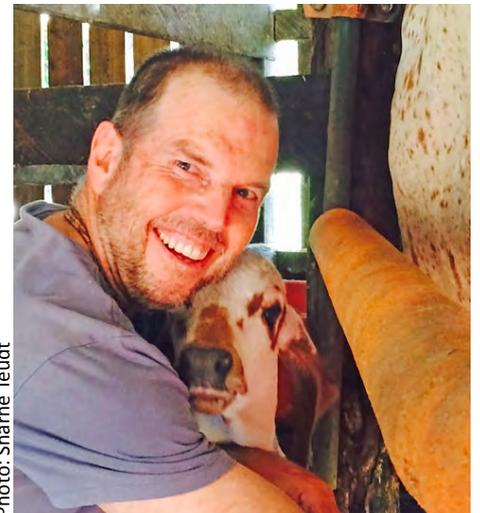


Photo: Sharne Teudt

Venugopal dasa with Prahlada Narasimha, a Gir bull calf recently born at New Govardhana.

REMEMBERING RAMA

By Mandakini devi dasi

On Thursday 11 June, a group of devotees gathered at Govinda's restaurant, Surfers Paradise, to honour the passing of Ramasarana dasa. Rama was one of the first devotees to live at New Govardhana farm from 1977.

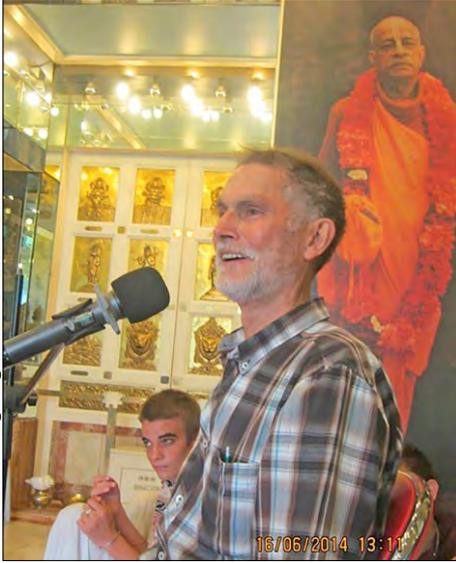


Photo: www.bingimages.com

Rama in Hong Kong.

Along with his late brother, Rama Bhadra dasa, he was an active member of the community, and was the devotee who established the first garden.

After a few years he relocated to Hong Kong, where Tamal Krishna Gosvami had encouraged him to start a business to support the preaching in China.

Rama became one of the biggest art dealers in the area, and with this paraphernalia enhanced the development and preaching in many temples around the world.

In spite of his phenomenal success and huge contribution, Rama always remained down to earth, unpretentious and humble. 🙏



Photo: Aravinda dasa

Devotees gathered recently at Govindas to remember Rama.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE FARM?

By Ajita dasa

New Govardhana has some 6km of main roads, not including dirt tracks, connecting the main areas.

Each winter, during the dry season, we try to improve some infrastructure to make it easier for residents and visitors to commute and for water flow to exit timely.

This year we are renovating the dirt road from *Manasi Ganga*, at the bottom of the school hill, to the causeway behind Govinda Kunda, as well as the portion of road joining to the housing circuit.

To save expensive carting of road base, we opened a new quarry to extract all the necessary underlay road base, plus a bit more for other works.

On the photo below you can see the 1km of road under repair highlighted in yellow and the quarry circled in red pen, (bottom right-hand side).

The quote came to \$13,000, including four sets of new concrete pipes to move water from the hillside to the lake paddock without having to cross the road and damaging it.

The road is still under construction, but contractor Darryl Tagget, who has a long-standing relationship with New Govardhana, decided to throw in a few extras. He also rebuilt and road based the very steep road heading to the old dairy causeway from the entrance of the school, an extra 150m of road, and then rebuilt the Retreat Centre road heading to Trayadisha dasa's house.

All devotees and visitors are welcome to take a *japa* walk around the lake. The road has now been completed. 🙏

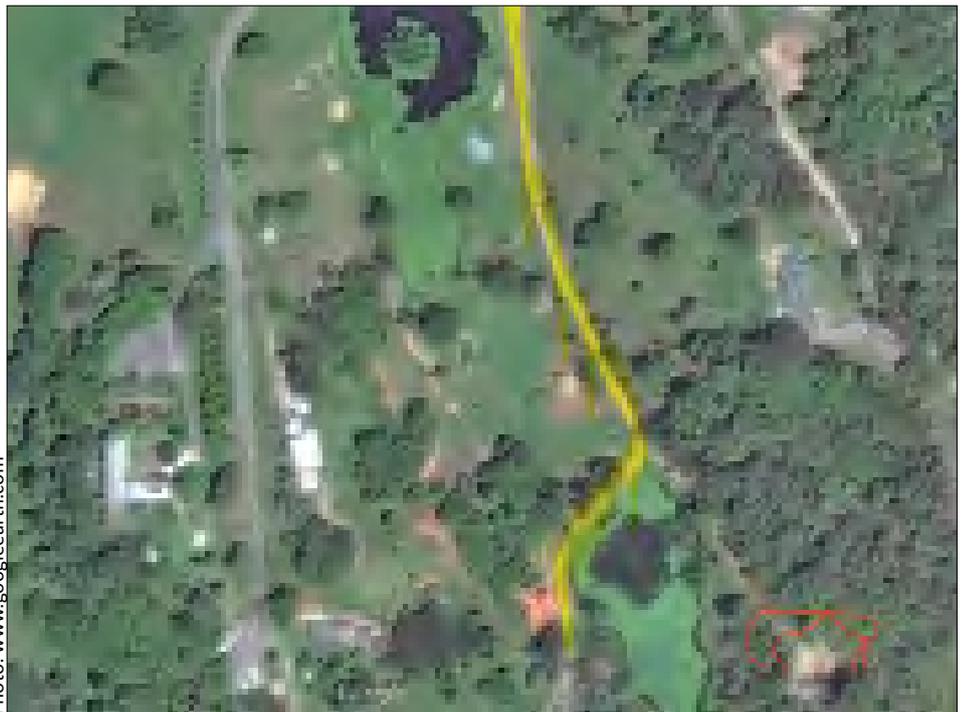


Photo: www.googleearth.com

(Above) 1km of road under repair highlighted in yellow and the quarry circled in red pen, (bottom right-hand side).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

By Ambika devi dasi

New Govardhana Community encompasses many devotees, friends and well-wishers of all ages, and from many walks of life. All of us, from time to time, need others to help us through difficult times. We also

benefit by simply having others to connect to, as we journey through life's many challenges.

There is a variety of support services we could offer if we all come together to give what we can. Everyone has something to offer. The more devotees who are willing to join in to create support services and opportunities to care for other

(continued on P.6)

MEET THE PUJARI - BHUSAYA DASA

By Mandakini devi dasi

Bhusaya dasa was 19 years of age when he joined ISKCON in 1982 at Colo River. He has served as a *pujari* for more than three decades.

Beginning in Sydney's Darlinghurst temple, he was occupied seven days a week performing *arati*, dressing small Gaura Nitai and cooking offerings.

Bhusaya remembers being so busy that he would sometimes be chanting his rounds at 11.00 pm.

He transferred to Canberra for a year and a half to distribute books and help with Bhaktivedanta Book Trust mail-outs, before returning to Sydney and once again serve Sri Sri Radha Gopinatha.

In 1986, he spent some time at New Govardhana helping with Deity worship, as well as assisting Lagudi dasa with the bullocks. Together they carried out the first successful ploughing and vegetable planting.

After hitching back to Sydney from New Govardhana, Bhusaya laughingly recalls arriving at the Temple just in time to perform the Mangala *arati*. North Sydney became his home until his marriage and relocation to Cessnock farm, and then Canberra.

From 1999, he has been based at New Govardhana and is at present responsible for managing the Deity roster and helping with fill-ins. As a responsible manager, Bhusaya's main focus is to keep the wheels turning in the Deity department. He comments that all functions centre around Their Lordships, and that Srila Prabhupada had requested that if we cannot increase, we should at least maintain what we have begun.

Bhusaya travels to India every year to purchase stock for the Temple Shop, which he manages. He is also engaged in part-time security work. 🐟



Photo Supplied by Bhusaya dasa

Bhusaya dasa.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

(continued from P.5)

devotees, the wider our umbrella of support will be.

For example, we could create men's groups; women's groups; youth support groups; a dial-a-friend service; a bank of volunteers for those needing help if they are sick, lonely, etc.

Most of these volunteer positions do not require professional training – only a good heart, but professional training and/or qualifications in relevant fields are also welcome.

Any devotees, who may be interested in contributing to this valuable community-service, please contact Krishna Kirtan dasa, Sridas or Ambika dasi to give expressions of interest, or for more information. A community meeting on the farm will soon follow for any interested persons. This meeting will be advertised in the near future.

Gaura-bhakta-vrinda ki jaya!

Krishna Kirtan dasa: 0428 727 627

Sridas: 0409 068 006

Ambika dasi: 0434 214 186 🐟

ANURADHA'S VISIT

By Mandakini devi dasi

Anuradha devi dasi arrived at New Govardhana on 1 June for a month's visit.

As a former resident, now living in Vrindavana, she welcomes the opportunity to reconnect with the farm, which she sees as a refuge, and also to catch up with her spiritual family.

After rearing six children, Anuradha relocated to the Holy Dham as a *vanaprasthi* in 2011. Having joined the movement there in 1979, she had a desire to learn more about Vrindavana and also to dedicate more time to becoming absorbed in hearing and chanting.

Taking advantage of the educational opportunities available there,



Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

Anuradha devi dasi

Anuradha has studied the Bhakti Shastri course and several teacher training courses. Each year in Mayapur she teaches the Bhakti Shastri Course as well as the Disciples Course.

Without the distraction of family life, she has been able to learn, study, and

take advantage of the many senior devotees residing in the Dham.

Says Anuradha, "The best way for me to learn is to teach, and I also feel that a good way to help my Krishna consciousness is to help others."

While she is here, she is giving *Srimad-Bhagavatam* classes; *Bhagavad-gita* classes; a seminar on *Sikshastakam*; and is providing guidance and association for the younger devotees. She is finding the farm to be very progressive, and is impressed by the cleanliness and sense of organisation.

One of her deeper understandings is that we are all part of Lord Caitanya's *sankirtana* movement and, because we are playing a role in His *lila*, we have a responsibility to be the best devotee that we can be.

This, she believes will certainly lead to further loving exchanges in the future. 🐟

SNAPSHOTS

Photos: Trevor Gore

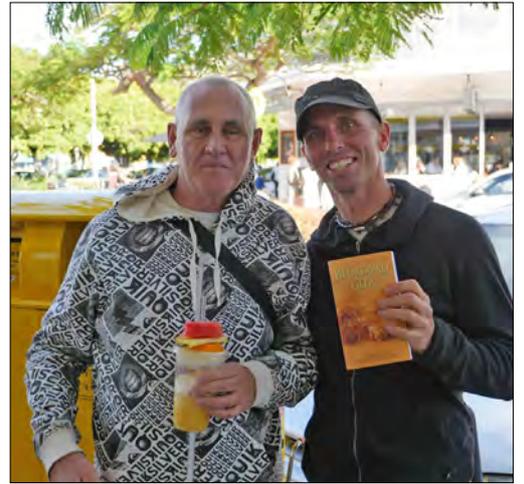


Left and Above: Lord Jagannatha appeared at the Lismore Lantern Parade 20 June 2015.



Above: After a blissful harinama by the ocean the chanters went to the Cardamon Pod and were treated to tasty delights.

Right: Caranaravinda dasa gives the Bhagavad-gita. The mercy flows freely in Byron Bay every Wednesday.



Photos: Urvasi devi dasi



New brahmacharinis? Madhavi and Ganga recently took a leisurely stroll through the women's ashram.



Granthapriya dasa comes down from Brisbane once a month to help out with weeding the cow pastures.



Jayadeva dasa and Aja, a Gir bullock. This recent encounter was the first time in all his 86 years that he has touched a cow!

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 may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

GUNDICA MARJANA

Gundica Marjana is the washing and cleaning of the Temple to prepare for the return of Lord Jagannatha from the Ratha-yatra.

You are all invited to take part in the washing and cleaning of the New Govardhana Temple on Saturday 18 July, starting at 9.00 am, finishing at 12 noon. This will be followed by special *prasadam* for the participants at 1.00 pm.

Gundica Marjana Saturday, July 18

7.00 am Srimad Bhagavatam class in the temple courtyard.

8.00 am Darsana

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Photo: Trevor Gore

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



Poster Design: Unvasi devi dasi

Rathayatra at New Govardhana Sunday, 19 July 2015

Parade Starts at 10.00am

Fun for the whole family
FREE Vegetarian Feast
Market Stalls
Nila Madhava (Jagannatha) Drama
Jumping Castle
Face painting and kids activities
Indian Dance

SPECIAL NOTE

While Gundica Marjana falls on Friday, 17 July and Rathayatra on Saturday, 18 July, these festivals are actually being celebrated on Saturday, 18 and Sunday 19 July respectively.



Image: Bing Images

The Bhagavad-gita was spoken was spoken by Lord Krishna 5,000 years ago.

BHAGAVAD-GITA ESSAY COMPETITION

By Padma devi dasi

It's on again! The Bhagavad-gita Essay Competition is being run in 2015 and this year is available worldwide. This fun and challenging competition encourages participants to delve deeply into the content and meaning of the *Bhagavad-gita* in response to a specific philosophical question about Krishna's transcendental teachings. Last year only university students were eligible to enter, but this year the competition is open to everyone, internationally.

There are three categories of essays on offer: (1) an essay question for individual writers. This category asks writers to respond to a specific philosophical question, based on Srila Prabhupada's *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. The word limit for this essay is 3000 words; (2) an essay written by a group of writers (maximum 2,500 words); (3) a 140-word paragraph about the essence of the *Bhagavad-gita*. All three essay categories offer various prize money. The deadline for all submissions is 31 December, 2015. Everyone is encouraged to participate! For further details, please see <http://www.bgasitisesay.com.au/>

JULY CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

12 Sun	Ekadasi (Fasting for Parama Ekadasi)
13 Mon	Dvadasi (Break fast 6.38 – 10.07 am)
17 Fri	Gundica Marjana
18 Sat	Ratha-yatra
	Sri Svarupa Damodara Goswami – Disappearance
	Sri Sivananda Sena – Disappearance
22 Wed	Hera Pancami (4 days after Ratha Yatra)
	Sri Vakresvara Pandita – Disappearance
26 Sun	Return Ratha (8 days after Ratha Yatra)
27 Mon	Ekadasi (Fasting for Sayana Ekadasi)
28 Tue	Dvadasi (Break fast after 10.26 am)
31 Fri	Guru (Vyasa) Purnima
	Srila Sanatana Goswami – Disappearance