

March 2018



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



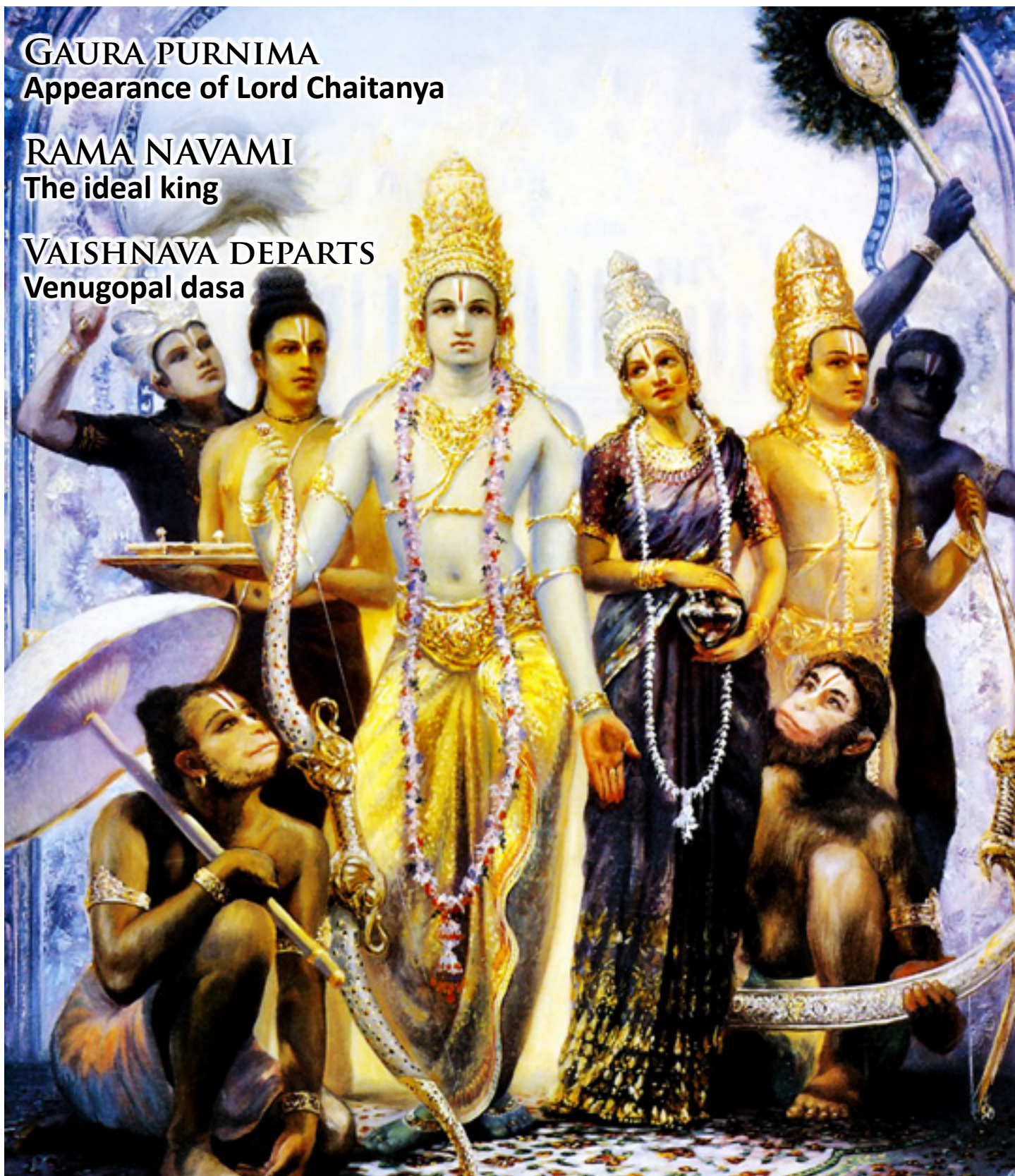
krishnafarm.com

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

GAURA PURNIMA
Appearance of Lord Chaitanya

RAMA NAVAMI
The ideal king

VAISHNAVA DEPARTS
Venugopal dasa



SACRED SOUND RETREAT + IN FOCUS + FARM TOURS

RAMA NAVAMI

By Ambika devi dasi

In Treta Yuga, the Supreme Personality of Godhead descended to this world in His full quadruple expansion – as Lord Ramachandra and His divine brothers: Laksmana, Bharata and Satrugna.

The Lord's mission was to protect the *brahmanas* and sages from the demons who were harassing them at that time. Situated in Shri Lanka, the greatest of all the demons, Ravana, expanded his influence and power even over the demigods.

By superior arrangement, Lord Ramachandra and His chaste wife Sita were sent to reside in the forest, along with Laksmana. There, They killed many demons, and gave shelter to the sages. The powerful Ravana kidnapped beautiful Sita, taking Her to his palace in Lanka.

In order to rescue Her, Lord Ramachandra formed an alliance with Sugriva and his powerful army of monkeys, who had taken birth from demigods in order to carry out the Lord's desire.

After crossing the ocean to Lanka on huge rocks floating by the power of the holy name of Rama, they waged a full-scale war on Ravana's army. Despite their lack of sophisticated weapons, Lord Rama's army defeated the demons in one of the most famous wars in history.

Ravana was killed by Lord Ramachandra, Sita was reunited with Her Lord, the *brahmanas* and sages were no longer threatened and the monkeys returned to their homes with the blessings of the Lord. Sita, Rama, Laksmana and Hanuman (the most devoted and heroic of the monkeys) triumphantly returned to the city of Ayodhya, where Lord Rama ruled for thousands of years as the ideal king.

During His incarnation He displayed wonderful qualities as a son, a brother, a husband, and as the perfect saintly king. The citizens of Ayodhya were completely happy and satisfied in all respects.

His holy Appearance Day will be celebrated on 26 March and all are invited to take part in the festival in His honour. 🙏
(Ref 9th Canto Srimad-Bhagavatam)



Photo: mvtindia.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Today is Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's appearance day, so we must discuss this very thoroughly ... Therefore we have to go through guru. Rupa Goswami is our guru. Narottama dasa Thakura said, *rupa-raghunatha-pade, hoibe akuti, kabe hama bujhabo, sri-yugala-piriti*. If we want to understand the transcendental position of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, then we have to go through *guru, guru-parampara* system. Otherwise it is not possible. *Rupa-raghunatha pade hoibe akuti*. Unless we accept this process, unless we submit... This whole process is submission. Krishna wants this. *Sarva-dharman parityajya*. So if you want to approach Krishna, you have to become very submissive. And to whom? "Krishna is not here. To whom I shall submit?" No. To His devotee, to His representative. The business is submission. So Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu appeared this day for giving mercy to the fallen souls who are so foolish, they cannot take to Krishna consciousness. He is personally teaching how to take to Krishna consciousness. And that is this *kirtana*. You have seen the picture in our *Teachings of Lord Caitanya* that in Prayag He was engaged in chanting, and Rupa Goswami is offering his obeisances. That is the first meeting with Rupa Goswami, and he composed this verse, *namo maha-vadanyaya krishna-prema-pradaya te...*

**Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya
19.53 Lecture**



Photo: krishna.org

Lord Ramachandra is famous for His heroic pastimes as the ideal king.

NY ENCOUNTER GOES TO COURT

By Mukunda Goswami

In December 2017, the ISKCON Global GBC declared the sale of the New York temple building [and the moving of the Deities] to be against GBC law. This was upheld by the King's County Superior Court (in Brooklyn) on or about 31 January, 2018. In December of 2017, the GBC had removed Ramabhadrada as the president of that temple.

The Brooklyn court effectively invalidated the signed sales agreement. However, the judge in the case recommended mediation for a more final development and said she would be present during the mediation process. The current temple management will consider an option to sell air rights to a developer and thus keep the building and Deities intact.

Ramabhadrada, long-time president of the Brooklyn ISKCON temple, had signed in 2015 a USD58.8 million contract for the sale of the temple. He was removed and replaced shortly



Photo: Times of India

ISKCON Brooklyn temple members worship together.

after the sale was noted as a violation of GBC law.

Ramabhadrada's motivation was allegedly to use the money to build a more suitable temple and home for the Deities in the nearby Queens area, a more residential part of New York City and home to a considerably large number of people of Indian origin.

Photo: kkrishna1008.blogspot.com



At one point the sign pictured above had been removed from the temple facade.

MAJESTIC FARM TOUR

By Vanessa Reynolds

The tours at New Govardhana farm started a few months ago as a way of connecting local residents and travelling hearts to the values behind the Hare Krishna faith.

While visiting the temple, cows, guest accommodation and Krishna Village facilities, Bharat Devanani, the tour guide, shared with our group the importance of cows and land. These are two highly valued elements of the Hare Krishna community. It makes sense that agriculture needs to be part of our lives in order to connect with the natural ways of growing our food.

The tour is well worth attending, as I'm sure that you'll find much more in common with the Hare Krishna community than you realise. This tour was a beautiful reminder that the environment is filled with love and support for sustaining us.

Hot Goss!

We have heard on the grapevine that members of the broader Murwillumbah community have become aware of the farm tours and many have expressed their interest.

KRISHNA VILLAGE

By Vanessa Reynolds

There really is something for everyone at Krishna Village. From yoga classes, to becoming a yoga teacher through training, permaculture design courses, soul retreats, learning Intuitive Balinese massage or taking advantage of the accommodation and massage, this village is full of ways to connect with your heart, nature and community.

Krishna Village is one of those places that you know you'll return to some day. For me, my first visit was back in 2016, when I participated in the Intuitive Balinese massage training.

And it was amazing! Now, back for my second visit, and at a place in life where I'm immersing myself in setting up a chemical-free flower farm in the Hunter Valley, NSW, I was captivated with the farm's natural surroundings and permaculture activities.

SACRED SOUND KIRTAN RETREAT

By Manjulali devi dasi

The 2018 Sacred Sound Kirtan Retreat promises to be better than ever! Stellar *kirtaneers* His Holiness Indradyumna Swami, Bada Haridasa and Sri Prahlada dasa will be leading us in chanting the holy names, with the welcome addition of BB Govinda Swami, Akincana Krishna dasa, and Janardan from Brisbane.

Vaisnavi devi dasi has kindly offered to organise activities for children under four years old, while Dhriti devi dasi will continue with Krishna Kids activities for the over fours. The many fun activities they have planned will keep the children engaged for hours, enabling their parents to participate fully in the retreat.

This festival is a unique opportunity to unite the Australian *yatra*, providing devotees the occasion to meet other Vaishnavas from as far away as the UK and New Zealand.

Residents on New Govardhana and devotees living off the farm will be hosting many of the guests. Organisers of the Sacred Sound Retreat are also humbly requesting local devotees to volunteer some of their time to make our visitors feel welcome and help in general for a smooth running of the festival. There are many service opportunities available, so please sign up on the website to volunteer.

The 2018 Sacred Sound festival will be dedicated to Venugopal dasa and Braja Vallabhi dasi, two key organisers of past years' festivals, who have now departed this material world.

Indradyumna Swami inaugurated the Sacred Sound Kirtan Retreat in 2016 to gather all his disciples and *kirtana* lovers in Australia in the one venue. It is a wonderful and spiritually uplifting opportunity to join together in our love for Krishna's holy names.

We look forward to sharing *kirtana* with you!



REGISTER NOW!

www.sacredsoundkirtanretreat.com.au/registration/

To sign up for services:

www.sacredsoundkirtanretreat.com.au/volunteer/

NEW RESTAURANT IN TOWN

By Deva Gaura Hari dasa

Krishnabhavana dasi and myself have been operating our 'Dosa Heaven' market stall on the Gold Coast and Tweed for almost three years. This is our full-time business because we both love to cook and serve prasadam.

Since we began, patrons have been asking if we had a permanent restaurant, so the idea has been in the back of our minds for some time. Moving into a permanent location seemed the next logical step for us as a family, so in 2017 when a local café space was up for rent, we started trying more seriously to establish a restaurant.

Just out of curiosity, we contacted Sunnyside Mall to see what the rents were like on those shops. We found the shopping centre to be very helpful and open to the idea of having a vegetarian restaurant there.

During this period we talked to many devotees and other locals about the



Photo: Courtesy Deva Gaura Hari dasa

A design drawing of the new vegetarian restaurant 'Lucid'.

venture and overall the response was very positive. We felt encouraged to go ahead and try to establish this restaurant for the pleasure of Krishna and the devotees.

We will expand our menu from just cooking *dosas* to include other items like pies, salads, pizza, sweets, burgers, nachos and hot chips. We will also include an Asian menu, with preparations such as *laksa*, fried rice, Singapore noodles, *satay* sticks and so on.

Our new restaurant will be called 'Lucid Pure Vegetarian'. It will be located downstairs in the Sunnyside Mall (Coles shopping centre), next to the existing café.

We look forward to be able to serve the devotee community when we open for business in mid-March.

GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE

By Mandakini devi dasi

New Govardhana welcomes new residents Bhakta Simon Baldry and his 15-year-old son Brihaspati.

They are most happy to be here after long cherishing a desire to be a permanent part of our community.

Simon began his spiritual journey at the age of 16 years in Auckland in 1984. His association with New Govardhana commenced in 1986 when a *brahmachari* friend encouraged him to take up residence here.

He stayed for two years. During that time he learned many farm skills under the guidance of Maha Mantra dasa and Lagudi dasa.

Back in New Zealand, Simon felt like he had never truly left New Govardhana, always longing to be back.

After a month-long visit last year, and with encouragement from friends, Simon made a formal application to take up residence here.

A stone carver and landscape gardener by profession, Simon is presently working with Vijaya Lashand in the vegetable garden. He will also establish the flower garden and take responsibility for growing flowers for Their Lordships.



Bhakta Simon and his son, Brihaspati.

Photo: Mandakini devi dasi

“Everyone is amazingly kind here. Someone loaned me a car. Other devotees have donated household goods for our beautiful cabin. Brihaspati is enrolled in Year 10 at the *gurukula* and he is delighted with his room, as it is exactly as he always dreamed of. My goal is to become successful in growing flowers for the Deities and hopefully satisfying the garland makers.”

Need help with your garden?

Besides Simon’s allocated garden service on the farm, he is hoping to acquire one day’s paid work a week to help with his family maintenance. For enquiries, please contact Simon on 0490 959 635.

INDIA!

By Krishnarupa devi dasi

Ill health had affected me in 2016 to 2017, so I decided to investigate some Ayurvedic treatment options while I was in India for a three months’ stay. Encouraged by what I had heard about Bhakti Charu Swami’s ‘Arogya Niketana’ in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh – known as the Tiger State – I arranged for a three-week treatment.

The Deities in ISKCON Ujjain are remarkably beautiful: Narasimhadeva; Gaura Nitai; Radha Madanmohan; Krishna Balarama and Sandipani Muni; and Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra. Presiding on magnificent thrones, these Deities are dressed exquisitely, Their clothes created on the premises by the devotee *jari* experts.

Ujjain is also the site of one of the 12 self-manifested Siva Lingas. The Siva Linga temple is ancient and a popular place of worship for thousands. Nearby runs the Shipra, a holy river where Lord Rama placed the ashes of his father, King Dasaratha. It is also the resting place of Lord Narasimhadeva after He killed Hiranyakasipu. A striking deity of Lord Yamaraja and Chitrugupta, his scribe who notates all the activities of the living entities, also preside on the riverbank.



Photo: Krishnarupa devi dasi

Radha Madanmohan in Ujjain’s ISKCON temple, Madhya Pradesh, India.



Photo: Krishnarupa devi dasi

The awe-inspiring Yamaraja deity located on the holy Shipra River, Ujjain.

Sandipani Muni’s *gurukula* is in Ujjain. This is where Lord Krishna and Balarama studied for 64 days. Visiting this peaceful holy site was a privilege.

Mayapur held adventures for me as well as many realisations, particularly in the realm of the temporary nature of this body.

The day before I was due to leave Mayapur to return to Australia, a speeding motorcycle crashed head-on into me on my pushbike. I really thought my time was up. Krishna, however, had other plans for me and I survived with two fractured ribs.

Purification in the *dhama* is always welcomed, although I hope not to have another accident next time I visit Lord Chaitanya’s holy place!

IN FOCUS: LILIKO COMPER

By Jhulan dasi

JD: Please tell me a little about yourself.

LC: I was born and grew up in Tokyo. As a student I practised contemporary dance at university and did some courses on photography. I was working at a photo studio before I left Japan. After staying in Melbourne for two years while working and on holiday, I came to New Govardhana three years ago as a volunteer. Shortly after, I married Akincana dasa, who brought me to Krishna consciousness, and we had our daughter, Bhavisya.

JD: How did you find raising a child in Krishna consciousness?

LC: It helps me a lot to be Krishna conscious in many ways. I always try to give her something related to Krishna whenever she needs attention. Now she calls any human-like toys Krishna, even her Barbie doll! That helps me to be Krishna conscious, too. I love going to *aratis* but after Bhavisya was born I couldn't go most of the time. So I play *arati* music at home instead.



Photo: Courtesy Liliko Comper

Liliko Comper at New Govardhana.

Bhavisya picked up the music very quickly and sings along. She likes Jagannatha very much. I think babies in general are very attracted to Lord Jagannatha. She likes cows, too, so I take her to see cows sometimes, which gives me peace of mind as well. I feel we are growing together in Krishna consciousness.

JD: Can you tell me about your Bharatnatyam performance at the university program some years ago?

LC: It was a part of a cultural presentation for the Southern Cross university preaching program that Padma and Garuda organised two to three years ago. I was offered to join the Bharatnatyam dancing team with two other devotee girls. I had no experience in Bharatnatyam before, and we only had 10 rehearsals! So I had to pray a lot for empowerment. I had been dancing for many years for myself and it was my first time that I danced for Krishna.

JD: What was your inspiration for your origami decorations for Lord Nityananda's Appearance Day?

LC: Actually I was very happy when Dhriti *mataji* offered me that service. After Bhavisya was born I had to stop temple service, but I always wanted to do something for Krishna. Also I was familiar with origami from my cultural background, so it was a perfect service for me. It was a big responsibility and there were a few technical issues, so sometimes I had to stay up until 2am. But while I was making them, it was nice to think about Lord Nityananda and imagining the altar decorated with origami.

TOVP CHAKRA INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Excerpted from *tovp.org*

On 7 February 2018, ISKCON leaders and devotees worldwide converged at Sridhama Mayapur for the historic occasion of the installation of the final two Chakras onto the domes of Sri Sri Radha Madhava/Pancha Tattva and Lord Narasimhadeva atop the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP).

The main Chakra is 20 feet (six metres) in diameter, weighs about two tons and has more than 100 parts, including the Nava Yogendras (flames), which have been gold-plated and attached one by one.

The victory flags for the TOVP domes were hoisted along with the Chakras. This is called Dhwaja Rohan. Each flag on the dome has a different size based on shastric measurements

from the *Matsya Purana*. They are further decorated with auspicious Vedic symbols like the sun and moon.

Representing the achievement of another milestone of success in the completion of the TOVP, the Chakra installation heralded the next phase of construction as we approach its completion and the Grand Opening ceremony in 2022.

The credit for this accomplishment rests with all the devotees who have given their labour, time, talents and funds to make this possible. For that sacrifice, without a doubt Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and ISKCON's Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada will eternally bless them.

The TOVP is truly a temple built by the hands of all the devotees, and the TOVP Team wishes to thank each and every one of them from the bottom of our hearts for whatever they have done to contribute to this project.



Photo: ramaiswami.com

The beginning of the TOVP Chakra installation ceremony. The entire event was broadcast live via MayapurTV with a reported 1 million viewers.

GOSHALLA GOSS

By Karunamayi dasi

Many devotees stepped up to offer their services to the cows while the *goshalla* team experienced illness and injury, but due to so much change the cows became distressed. They needed an experienced person they were accustomed to. A call was made to Alex and, thankfully, the cows got what they needed.

Alex dropped everything, leaving his job and home, returning to New Govardhana to serve the cows. You could sense an instant shift in the mood of the cows, who then resumed their peaceful demeanour under Alex's care. A huge thank you to Alex for his selfless service to the cows.

New Govardhana's Cow Protection Program focuses on the long-term protection of cows. We would like to shed some light on some of the practices we do within the program. Some might have heard two cows crying recently as we weaned their calves. Calves are weaned to protect their mothers from injuries, to give the calf independence in the herd and



Photo: Karunamayi dasi

Bhakta Alex serving his beloved cows.

to protect newborn calves. When the calves are weaned they go over to the bullock *goshalla* under the brilliant care of Krishna Kirtana dasa. The female calves go away for four to six weeks, then re-join their mothers in the milk herd. The male calves join a new herd.

Bullocks grow a lot faster and larger than the cows. When they engage in a bit of rough and tumble with each other, it's just fun. However,

when they do the same with a cow, it can cause serious injury due to the difference in size and structure. Every decision made in the Cow Protection Program is made with the cows' best interest in mind.

If you would like to discuss any questions you might have with New Govardhana's Cow Protection Program, please contact Karunamayi dasi (0455 227 446 or ngcows@outlook.com).

SNAPSHOT- LORD NITYANANDA'S APPEARANCE DAY

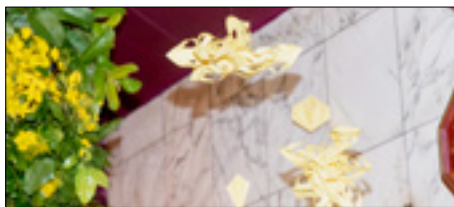
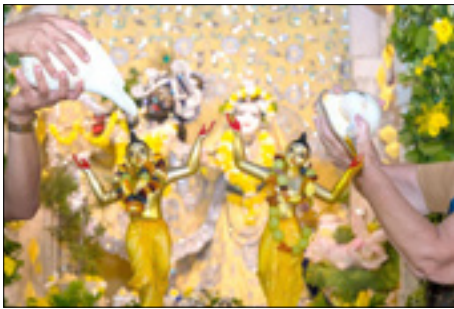


Photo: Trevor Gore

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 caroleditor@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:
Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Manjulali devi dasi, Kisori devi dasi.

LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Urvashi devi dasi and Jhulan dasi.

FOR ENQUIRIES, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS
Contact: www.conch.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



Gaura Purnima 2 March

- 7.30am Greeting Deities
- 8.00am Srimad-Bhagavatam Class
- 3.30pm Bhajanas
- 4.00pm Gurukula Presentation
- 4.30pm Offering of gifts
- 4.45pm Class
- 5.15pm Abhisheka
- 6.30pm Gaura Arati
Followed by the feast
- Fasting until moonrise



Janananda Goswami 22–24 March

- 22 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class at temple
- 22 March 12.30–2pm**
Kirtana and class at the Krishna village
- 23 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class
- 23 March 5pm**
Home program at Rupa Raghunatha's house
- 24 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class



Rama Navami 26 March

- 4pm Arati and kirtana
- 4.30pm Class
- 5.30pm Feast
- 6.30pm Gaura Arati
- Fasting until sunset



Madhava dasa 11–12 March

- 11 March**
4pm Sunday feast program
- 12 March**
7pm Krishna Village Kirtana



Ramai Swami 15–17 March

- 15 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class at temple
- 16 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class at temple
- 17 March 7.30am**
Srimad-Bhagavatam class at temple

MARCH CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 2 Fri Gaura Purnima – Appearance of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu (Fast until moonrise)
- 3 Sat Festival of Jagannatha Misra
- 10 Sat Sri Srivasa Pandita – Appearance
- 13 Tue Ekadasi – Fasting for Papamocani Ekadasi
- 14 Wed Dvadasi – Break fast 6.46-10.52am
Sri Govinda Ghosh – Disappearance
- 22 Thu Sri Ramanujacarya – Appearance
- 26 Mon Rama Navami – Appearance of Lord Sri Ramacandra (Fast until sunset)
- 28 Wed Ekadasi – Trisprsa Mahadvadasi
Fasting for Kamada Ekadasi
- 29 Thu Dvadasi – Break fast 6.54-10.52am
Damanakaropana Dvadasi
- 31 Sat Sri Balarama Rasayatra
Sri Krsna Vasanta Rasa
Sri Vamsivadana Thakura – Appearance
Sri Syamananda Prabhu – Appearance

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