



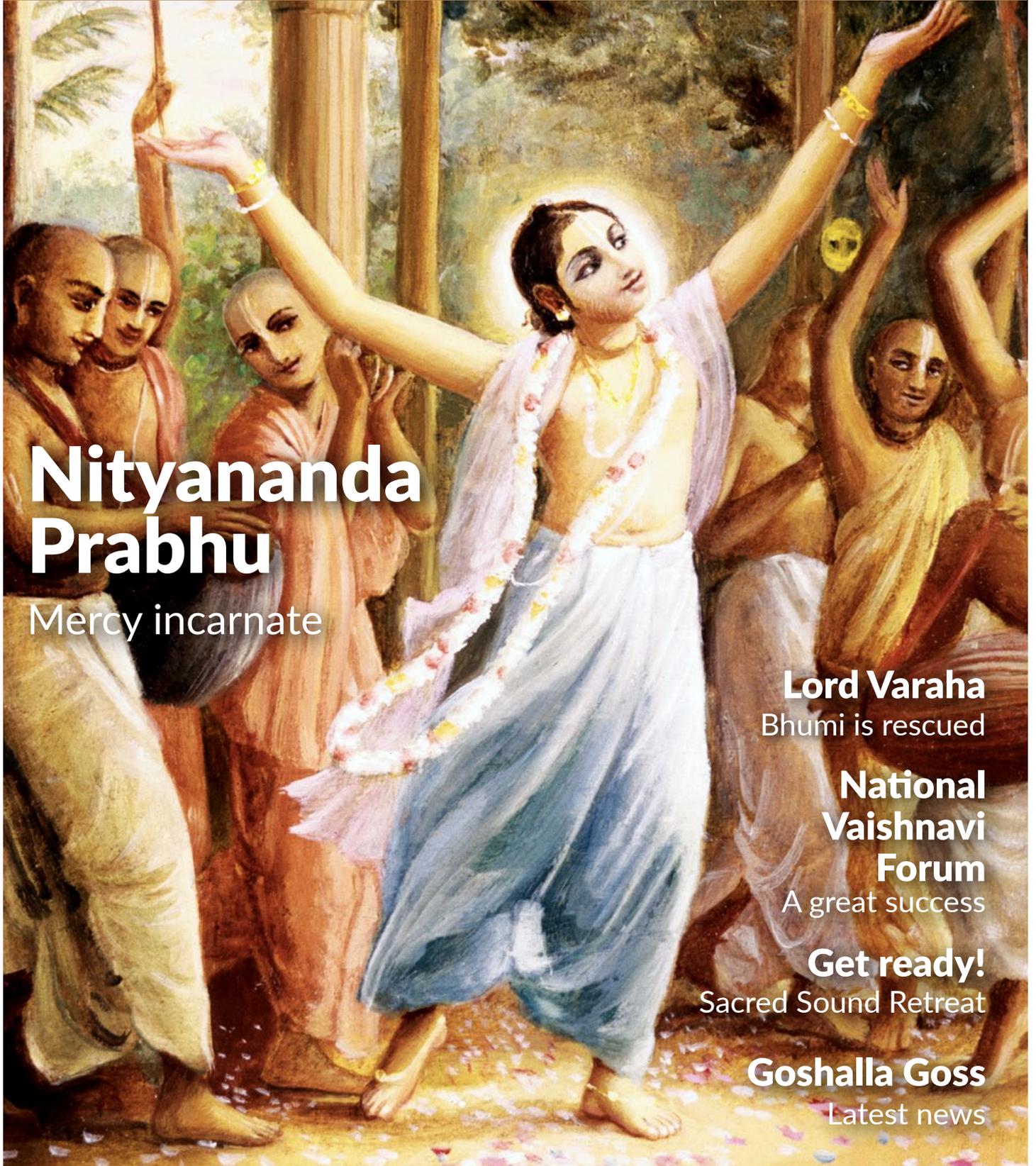
the  
**CONCH**

New Govardhana Community Newsletter

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

February  
2019

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



# Nityananda Prabhu

Mercy incarnate

**Lord Varaha**  
Bhumi is rescued

**National  
Vaishnavi  
Forum**  
A great success

**Get ready!**  
Sacred Sound Retreat

**Goshalla Goss**  
Latest news



## *Srila Prabhupada Uvaca*

The sound which He vibrated as the boar incarnation was answered by the Vedic hymns of the great sages in the planets Janaloka, Tapoloka and Satyaloka. The highest intellectual and pious living entities live in those planets, and when they heard the extraordinary voice of the boar, they could understand that the specific sound was vibrated by the Lord and no one else. Therefore they replied by praying to the Lord with Vedic hymns. The earth planet was submerged in the mire, but on hearing the sound of the Lord, the inhabitants of the higher planets were all jubilant because they knew that the Lord was there to deliver the earth.

*Bhagavatam 3.13.25, purport*

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Please join us each Ekadasi for *Srimad-Bhagavatam* class given by ISKCON's Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. These classes will feature subtitles.

**Darshan arati 7am**  
**Class 7.30am**

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*Cover photo: www.backtogohead.in*

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## Editorial Board

Krishnarupa devi dasi, Kisori devi dasi, Jhulan dasi,  
Aindavi dasi and Syamala Gopa Kishori devi dasi

## Layout and Graphic Design

Urvashi devi dasi and Jhulan dasi

## Staff Photographer

Trevor Gore

## Digital Conch

His Holiness Mukunda Goswami, Paul Bailly, Vishnujana dasa

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**For enquiries, comments or suggestions,  
please go to: [www.conch.org.au](http://www.conch.org.au)**

## Submission Guidelines

*The Conch* is your community newsletter. Please be a part of it! 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. Deadline is the 10th 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.

# Sri Nityananda Prabhu: Incarnation of Mercy

By Aindavi devi dasi

Lord Nityananda Prabhu is an incarnation of Balarama, the first expansion of Krishna. Like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda is intoxicated by ecstatic love of Krishna, *prema bhakti*, and in that state He distributes love of God to one and all.

He is an expansion of mercy who descended from the spiritual world, specifically to distribute love of God to all who surrender to Him, irrespective of social position or moral standing. And when He is merciful, Lord Chaitanya automatically will be merciful too.

As the first expansion of the Lord, Nityananda is the original spiritual master, the first servant of the Lord, and the first teacher to give knowledge of the Lord. His mission is to propagate the religious system for this age: the congregational chanting of the holy names of Krishna throughout the world.

Without being empowered by Krishna, no-one can spread this *sankirtana* movement. Today, no-one in history exemplifies his mercy principle more than Srila Prabhupada by how he spread the *sankirtana* movement all over the world. As one of Srila Prabhupada's Godbrothers suggested, he must specifically have been empowered by Nityananda Prabhu, to deliver the *duracara*, the sinful and fallen. And he did.



The unsurpassable sweetness of Lord Nityananda's dancing.  
Photo: Krishna Art on Google Images

Srila Prabhupada wanted to give everyone the chance to chant the holy name in the association of devotees, in the hope that it would reform and transform them. 🙏

Adapted from a talk by Giriraj Swami, on Nityananda-Trayodasi

10 February 2006, Phoenix, Arizona

Source: dandavats.com, 28 January 2018



By Syamala Gopa Kishori dasi

Photo: Ananta Vrindavan dasa

Registrations are now open for Australia's biggest *kirtana* retreat, held annually at New Govardhana over the Easter Long Weekend. Sacred Sound Kirtana Retreat attracts world-famous *kirtaneers* and crowds of approximately 1,000 sincere souls seeking to taste the nectar of the holy name.

The Retreat will feature many special guests, including His Holiness Indradymna Swami, His Holiness BB Govinda Swami, Bada Hari dasa, Bali and Dhanya Rico, Akincana Krishna dasa, Janardana and many others.

Once again, the event will host the Krishna Kids activity area, which will provide a safe, fun and Krishna conscious environment for children to play in while their parents participate in the *kirtanas*.

The Sacred Sound Kirtana Retreat is a donation-based event and we ask that devotees give generously according to their means to ensure that this amazing *kirtana* event can continue.

Please note that registration is essential and can be done via the website [www.sacredsoundretreat.com](http://www.sacredsoundretreat.com). 🙏

**Retreat dates: Fri 19 April – Mon 22 April 2019**

To make a donation and register for the Retreat or Krishna Kids, please visit [www.sacredsoundretreat.com](http://www.sacredsoundretreat.com)

## Stallholders wanted for the Retreat Market

The Retreat will be hosting a market serving tasty *prasadam*, gifts and clothing. The market will have extended hours, and close to 1,000 guests are expected, so this is a great opportunity to contribute to the event and showcase your products.

For more information on market stalls, please call Syamala on 0406 972 297 or visit the website.



# National Vaishnavi Forum

By Krishnarupa devi dasi

In December last year, New Govardhana hosted the National Vaishnavi Forum – *nurture, inspire, empower*. Attended by more than 100 Vaishnavis from around the nation, with two international keynote speakers, Visakha dasi and Sitala dasi, the retreat was an outstanding success.

The Forum had thought-provoking panels, workshops and presentations, including some fun skits during the Entertainment Night and unforgettable *kirtanas*.

In the planning since early 2018, the steering committee consisted of nine devotees from Melbourne, Sydney, New Govardhana and Brisbane: Acintyarupa dasi; Bhakta dasi; Bhakti dasi; Atmarama dasa; Jayasri dasi; Rasika Manjari dasi; Ambika dasi; Krishnarupa dasi; and Taraka dasi.

Look out for news of the next festival! 🙏

Photos: Parvati devi dasi



## In Focus: Mandali-Kishori dasi

This month *The Conch* interviews Mandali-Kishori.

**Q: How did you first come into contact with ISKCON?**

MK: I met a book distributor three years ago in Cape Town while on a family holiday. When I returned to New Zealand, I started university in Wellington where I began visiting Bhakti Lounge, ISKCON's outreach centre there.

**Q: What attracted you the most?**

MK: The philosophy attracted me the most. I was really looking for answers and a way to lead a meaningful life. I would attend weekly interactive *Bhagavad-gita* classes, and I was so happy to find something that made so much sense.

**Q: You hail from New Zealand originally. Why did you come over to Australia?**

MK: I first came in 2017 for the Sacred Sound festival. Radha Govardhanadhari captured my heart and it has been hard to stay away since then. I lived in the *brahmacharini ashrama* last summer during my university holidays and decided then that I would endeavour to move here after completing my studies.

**Q: A few months ago, you returned to New Govardhana. What services are you doing here?**

I am engaged in serving the cows with patient guidance from Gita Govinda dasi, Krishna Kirtan dasa, and Karunamayi dasi. I have no past experience caring for animals like this, so I am learning many new skills. This includes services such as training bullocks, maintenance work, and assisting in the *goshalla* shop.



Mandali-Kishori dasi doing what she loves most, looking after the cows.

*Photo: Karunamayi dasi*

**Q: What are your aspirations and future plans?**

MK: To be honest, I haven't thought so much into the future. I hope that I can continue to serve Radha Govardhandhari here for a long time, maybe permanently!

**Q: What do you like the most about the farm?**

MK: I like that New Govardhana provides a space for everyone's individuality, so we can all grow in our devotional life. There is such a beautiful community here, supportive and kind. Also, I love the cows, of course. 🐄



Jhulan's friends all wrote their goodbye words in a special card, here being presented to Jhulan by Krishnarupa dasi, along with a communal gift.

*Photo: Unknown*

## Goodbye for Now

*By Karunamayi dasi*

Early last month, Jhulan dasi headed back to South Korea. After five years serving Radha Govardhanadhari, Jhulan is beginning a new journey in her home country.

Jhulan is certainly a great New Govardhana success story. Starting in Krishna Village as a volunteer, she eventually decided to make the commitment of moving into the *ashrama* to delve deeper into Krishna consciousness.

While living in the *bramacharini ashrama* she received first and second initiation. She became the *ashrama* co-ordinator under the guidance of Krishnarupa devi dasi, and then became *ashrama* leader. She has been a great support for many of the devotees in the *ashrama* and around the farm.

Some of the other services Jhulan performed were managing the Temple Shop, designing the farm's posters and *The Conch* newsletter, as well as engaging in Deity worship.

The community held a surprise going away party for Jhulan to show their appreciation and to say goodbye for now. She has a strong desire to return to the farm in the future, and with the blessings of Radha Govardhanadhari I am sure we will be seeing her again soon. 🙏

## What's New at Krishna Village?

By Syamala Gopa Kishori dasi

Krishna Village has added to its impressive range of study opportunities with its new course the 'Art of Ayurvedic Cooking', facilitated by husband and wife team Mukunda Beresford and Devi Hema.

The facilitators are enthusiastic and knowledgeable in the science and practice of Ayurveda. Mukunda has a strong interest in the broader spiritual aspects of the Ayurvedic vegetarian diet. Devi completed her training as an Ayurvedic chef at the European Academy for Ayurveda in Vienna, Austria.

The course will offer rich philosophical discussions, interwoven with hands-on cooking exercises.

Participants can look forward to learning many practical techniques used in Ayurvedic cooking, including making paneer using milk from Krishna's cows, making fragrant spice *masalas* and learning the art of Ayurvedic sweets. 🌿

**Upcoming Course dates are 15–17 March 2019.  
Please visit [krishnavillage-retreat.com](http://krishnavillage-retreat.com)  
for more details.**



Ayurvedic cooking is diverse, delicious and very healthy.

Photo: Courtesy of Krishna Village Facebook page

## The Kitchen Religion

By Padmalocan dasa

Srila Prabhupada taught us that because all things come from God, we are meant to use them in His service. He explained that we should lovingly cook vegetarian

dishes for Krishna and offer them to Him with devotion. Krishna then accepts and blesses our offerings so that when we take His remnants, we become purified of all kinds of unwanted, sinful desires within our hearts.

The year 2018 was a great one for the New Govardhana kitchen, with breakfast, lunch and dinner *prasadam* served every day to more than 50 guests.

Srila Prabhupada states in *Srimad-Bhagavatam* that if we eat *prasadam*, even if there is some little sinful activity involved in its preparation, we are freed from any karmic reaction.

During festival time, we can serve *prasadam* to more than 1,000 people, and we average 300–400 each week during our popular Sunday Feast. The Sacred Sound Retreat held in April 2018 and December 2018's National Vaishnavi Forum – *nurture, inspire, empower* – were just two of the highly popular festivals held at New Govardhana where an amazing amount of *prasadam* was served to our guests from all around the world.

We've had some skilled and enthusiastic cooks come through this year. We look to grow the team over the next few months.

If you would like cook here at New Govardhana, please contact me!

A big thanks also to our main pot washer Ezy Cool and our Sunday feast pot washer George, the renowned 'snake man'. We couldn't do what we do without them! 🐍



One of our illustrious guests visiting New Govardhana is His Holiness Indradyumna Swami.

Photo: Padmalocan dasa

## Team Building

By Karunamayi dasi

The New Govardhana *goshalla* team is expanding! Over recent years the team has been stretching itself, but with new enthusiastic devotees gaining interest and taking on different services within the program, it is certainly an exciting time for cow *seva*.

Recently we have welcomed two devotees to the team: Bhakta Tom and Mandali-Kishori dasi. Tom moved onto the farm as a volunteer in Krishna Village and shortly after took up devotional life and moved into Krishna Pad.

Tom found his calling in the bullock training area. Guided by Krishna Kirtana dasa, he is now



Young Annabella loves being with Radha Govardhanadhari's COWS.

Photo: Karunamayi dasi

proficient in handling and training the bullocks. He also decided to try out other areas of the program and can be found most mornings milking the cows. Tom milked the cows twice a day every day during the Christmas period when all other cow herders were engaged in *prasadam* distribution at Woodford.

Mandali-Kishori just moved into the *bramacharini ashrama*

from New Zealand, having recently completed her university studies. In previous visits to the farm Mandali-Kishori had been very attracted to the cows and so was invited back to join the team, which she accepted eagerly. She now serves in all three areas of the Cow Protection program: milking, training the bullocks and caring for the retired cows, along with maintenance jobs.

We are also happy to have a Saturday/holiday helper. Young Annabella from the *gurukula* comes to the *goshalla* in the mornings or in any other free time she has to feed the cows and give calf Braja a cuddle. We hope to start a weekend kids' club soon in the new *goshalla* that Annabella will help us run. 🐾

## Celebrating Our Volunteers!

By Aindavi devi dasi

Most visitors to New Govardhana remark what a vibrant and beautiful place it is. They are impressed with the many happy, engaged visitors from Krishna Village dotted all over the farm. Well, quite frankly, so are we!

Krishna Villagers enter New Govardhana often just wanting a break from the rat race, some spiritual nourishment in a safe, sattvic, vegetarian environment and often end up with so much more. Others specifically come as volunteers to help with our organic farming. Others specifically come as volunteers to help with our organic farming, while some are serious spiritual seekers. But all of them, once they realise that there is a temple and Hare Krishna community here, are curious about what Hare Krishnas do and how they live.

New Govardhana resident Vasustrestha dasa explains, "It is important to share our way of life with them, hence we

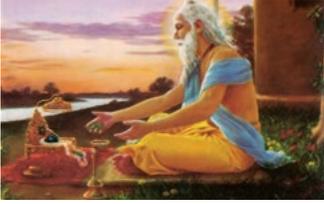
eat together. You also see many of the volunteers heartily taking up a variety of services – often with infectious sweetness, humility and gusto.

Visitors to the Village constitute a community who participate in a basic program of yoga, service, *kirtana* and spiritual discussion. Often the transformation is such that some of them request a deeper spiritual experience. Once that happens, they can move into two living facilities, the 'Bhakti Pad' (for men) and the 'Krishna Pad' (for women), which are transitional *ashramas* where residents focus more dedicatedly on their spiritual interests and receive mentoring from devotees.

The Hare Krishna community recognises how special these volunteers are. They are pleasant, helpful, and sincere, adding a dimension without which we would be so much poorer. Where would we be without them?

Photo: Ananta Vrindavan dasa

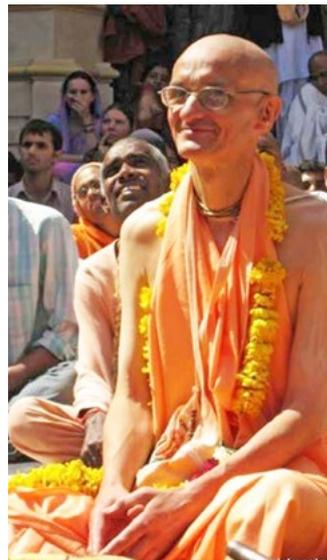
# Upcoming Events



**Tuesday 12 February**  
Appearance Day of  
Advaita Acarya



**Sunday 17 February**  
Varaha Dvadasi



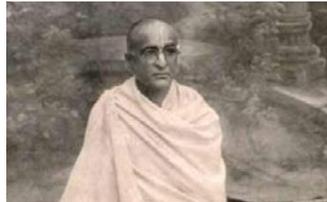
**Janananda Swami**  
Schedule to be  
confirmed



**Bhakti Mukunda  
Swami**  
Schedule to be  
confirmed



**Monday 18 February**  
Nityananda Trayodasi



**Sunday 24 February**  
Appearance Day  
of Bhaktisiddhanta  
Sarasvati Thakura

**A New Look**

This issue, you will notice that *The Conch* newsletter has had a design makeover by our layout expert, Jhulan dasi. It has been a number of years since any changes, so the editorial panel hopes you like the new look.

**Notice**

Just to let our readers know, March and April issues will have four pages each instead of the usual eight pages.

## February Calendar (from Vaishnava calendar www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- 1 Fri Paksa vardhini Mahadvadasi  
Fasting for Sat-tila Ekadasi
- 2 Sat Break fast 05:18 – 09:46am  
(Daylight saving not considered)
- 10 Sun Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura – Disappearance Day  
Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami – Appearance Day
- 12 Tue Sri Advaita Acarya – Appearance Day (Fasting till noon)
- 15 Fri Sri Ramanujacarya – Disappearance Day
- 16 Sat Bhaimi Ekadasi
- 17 Sun Break fast 05:30 – 09:50am  
(Daylight saving not considered)  
Varaha Dvadasi – Appearance of Lord Varahadeva  
(The fast is observed till noon on the Ekadasi. Feasting is done today.)
- 18 Mon Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu  
(Fasting till noon)
- 19 Tue Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura – Appearance Day
- 24 Sun Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura – Appearance Day  
(Fasting till noon)

**HARINAMA  
SANKIRTANA  
KI JAYA!**

**WEEKLY**  
at various locations.  
Contact Garuda dasa  
0423 170 267

**SUNDAY  
MORNINGS**  
Northern NSW &  
Gold Coast.  
Contact Visnujana  
dasa 0498 141 021