

Warm greetings from the residents of New Gokula!

*It has been a while since we updated you,  
Been busy sprucing up and making things new;  
The difficult drought hasn't helped,  
Finding alternate ways to get water are being developed;  
Still for us it is a very huge struggle,  
Praying to Krishna to break this bubble;  
So nutritious grass His cows can eat,  
And provide as before much milk very sweet;  
Resident devotees are diligently doing their duty,  
But the result is left to Gokulananda as He is the Almighty!!*

### **Drought Bout**

The rhyme above is a gist of the reality at New Gokula! Even though the coast has seen rain (heavy or light) on many occasions, we have received only a minimalistic amount here in the past eight months. Whilst New Gokula has not been exempted from the inauspicious effects of the present godless atmosphere of Kali Yuga, devotees nevertheless have faith in the *yuga dharma* (duty for this age) of *sankirtan yajna* (congregational chanting of Hare Krishna *maha mantra*).

Many of you are aware that New Gokula is also a farm community besides boasting a temple for the most beautiful deities of Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda. So our gamut of activities and requirement of resources (for example: Water) is much more than city temples.



Water is not only essential for the devotees and visitors but equally so for our beautiful cows, handsome bulls, cheeky goats, and all the other flora and fauna on our 500-odd acres of land. And the favourite food for cows is grass, which also provides them with the necessary minerals and vitamins they require to sustain themselves. With drought conditions and onset of winter now, the pastures are so dry that hardly any grass grows.

Moving forward, devotees are being proactive to come out of the drought wiser and more prepared. The installation of a 60hp pump by Manapati das and Bhakta Wayne along with



irrigation has enabled cultivation of one hectare of winter barley to supplement fodder needs. Further, water experts are lending their skills and equipment to test the quality and feasibility of using bore water.

In the meantime our cow man, Sesa das has been active training 2 sets of bullocks who are looking highly promising to execute the work of ploughing in the traditional way as shown by the Lord Himself.

For more information on how you can help us during this time, please contact Abhay Charan dasa on 0469073918 or Kaliya Krishna das on 0488178293 OR email [newgokula@gmail.com](mailto:newgokula@gmail.com)

### **New Gokula Farm**

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Part of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Founder Ācārya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivendānta Swāmī Prabhupāda

### A plea for help

However, all this is work in progress. To avert immediate shortage in cow feed caused by the persisting drought, New Gokula has procured supplies of hay for the cold winter. We have already spent \$15000 towards cow feed this year. With hungry stomachs still and rising prices, we need to buy further supply of hay to take us into spring, which will cost a further \$15,000 at least.

*Yajna* or sacrifice comes from prescribed duties. Cow protection is the duty of every civilized human being, the cow being one of seven mothers according to Vedic scriptures.

We seek your support this year again to help us keep Krishna's cows and bulls healthy and happy.

Donations can be made to:

#### **ISKCON Farm**

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032164

Account: 110819



If you require a tax deductible receipt for your donation, please email [newgokula@gmail.com](mailto:newgokula@gmail.com) and donate to:

#### **Hare Krishna Food for Life Hunter Valley Inc.**

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032516

Account: 182462

### Working Bee

The farm component of New Gokula, due to its nature of diverse activities: be it caring for animals; priestly work; growing food; administration; water management; pasture management; construction etc. allows the engagement of every class of society – *Brahmanas, Ksatriyas, Vaisyas* and *Sudras* – the true *Varnasrama* system, as opposed to the limited urban set-up. Though we are not completely there yet, a move in the right direction has been made to make Srila Prabhupada's dream of a proper Vedic community manifest - step by step.

One of the steps in this direction has been to have Working Bees at the farm enabling groups from all walks



of life to come together and perform various services on the farm helping us complete certain projects. One particular *Bhakti Vrksa* group from Parramatta led by His Grace Anandamaya Gopinath das has been exceptional in their support – physically and financially for the past year. Consistently they have turned up at the farm every 4-6 weeks with the men helping to repair fences, dig trenches, pick up cow dung, clear the paddocks of rubbish, gardening, and recently even pouring a concrete floor in the goshala.

The ladies in the meanwhile help with cleaning or in the kitchen while some keep the children engaged.



Bhakti means love in action and this group has surely proved their love for Krishna through their selfless menial service at the farm.

The resident devotees of New Gokula are truly grateful to this group for their enthusiasm in

devotional service.

This is what His Grace Anandamaya Gopinath das has to say about their experience:



### Why did you choose New Gokula Farm?

"I certainly believe the primary cause would be Radha Gokulananda looking to get some service out of lazy servants like us. On a more serious note, I think this farm community gives us aspiring



devotees a chance to relieve ourselves from the modern world and submit ourselves to the Vedic way of life which was primarily raising cows, cooking meals for a community, offering it to the supreme lord and honouring it, singing the Lord's name and glorifying his past-times. Essentially, a life bereft of all the things we now call modern or in my humble opinion Maya. Whenever we are here as a group we admire the devotees here for their simplicity, benevolence, and a smile that never appears to leave their happy faces. We hope to experience their bliss whenever we are here which sums up why we love rendering our services here."

### How has this service helped you advance spiritually?

"The farm community helps the group temporarily realise the fundamental difference between their physical body and spirit soul as they detach themselves from the false ego at least while they are here. The Group is getting the association of fellow aspiring and advanced devotees which motivates them further to continue on this wonderful path.

I honestly think aspiring devotees who come here often and render various loving services including go-seva, cooking, cleaning genuinely and passionately believe that Gokulananda would shower His mercy on them. That they are coming back again and again certainly evidences their resolve and inherently aids their spiritual advancement."

A huge thank you from New Gokula!

The team at New Gokula encourages other similar groups to consider offering their time, skills, labour etc. on a regular basis to help develop Srila Prabhupada's vision for a sustainable farm community. For more information on how you can participate please contact Abhay Charan dasa on 0469073918 or [newgokula@gmail.com](mailto:newgokula@gmail.com)





*H.G. Anandmaya Gopinath das' Bhakti Vrksa group looking blissful after a day's seva at New Gokula*

### Popular Venue for Celebrations

In recent times, New Gokula has become a venue of choice for celebrations be it a birthday, wedding anniversary, a remembrance etc.



You can sponsor the main lunch feast on a Saturday or Sunday at New Gokula. You will not only receive blessings of our beautiful deities, Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda, our cows, our visitors, and the resident devotees who volunteer here, but also from your family and friends for inviting them to partake a yummy, karma-free vegetarian feast.

Raj Bhoga offering sponsorship on week days is also available.

So what are you waiting for? Choose a date and ask Jayanti Devi dasi for more info on (02) 4998 1800 OR [newgokula@gmail.com](mailto:newgokula@gmail.com)



More news in pictures



*The Divine Couple – Sri Sri Radha Gokulananda*



*Bharat out on a stroll on a crisp wintry morning at New Gokula*



*Feeding the masses during Easter Holidays*



*Members of Raymond Terrace Torch Bearers Legacy visit*



*A visit from the vet for Nandi*



*Jumping Castle hire for a kids birthday party*

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Please visit [www.newgokula.com](http://www.newgokula.com) for more details on our timings, accommodation if you wish to stay over, or becoming a cow sponsor.

Chant Hare Krishna and be happy! 😊