

BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #16 DECEMBER 2007

Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
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ABBOT'S REPORT

Dear friends in the Dhamma,

I wish to encourage you all to attend our Four-Day Christmas Bhavana Course which commences on the 27th December. We will be studying the great Buddhist text by Atisha entitled 'Lamp For the Path to Enlightenment'.

We are most fortunate to be able to use the digitized recordings of John Hughes who gave teachings on this text some years ago. During the course the main merit making projects will be digitising of the John D Hughes cassette Dhamma teachings and cataloguing books in our library.

May I see you all more often. I love you all.

~Anita Carter

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 29th December 2007 at 5.30pm. All Members are encouraged to attend to support our Centre. We require a quorum of 7 members to conduct our General Meetings.

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPING A BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA

Mr KANG Chuen-Tat of Swinburne University Buddhist Society has written a proposal to develop a Buddhist University near Bendigo in Victoria.

In the proposal Mr Kang says there is a site near Bendigo of 488 acres which has been selected as the site for the proposed University.

The total cost for establishing the University is expected to be \$5 Billion. Funds will be sought from world-renowned Buddhist funds, individual Buddhist organisations and partial sponsorship by the Australian Government.

If anyone wishes to read the proposal document please see Frank Carter.

IMPORTANT DATES

SATURDAYS	MEMBERS' DAY 10.00AM SANGHA MEETING 11.00AM INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM CLASSES
SATURDAY EVENINGS	BUDDHA DHAMMA TEACHINGS BY THE VENERABLE SANGHA AND/OR MEDITATION GUIDED BY ANITA CARTER 8.00PM
15 -16 DECEMBER	VENERABLE DONDRUP DORJE 2 DAY COURSE PADMASAMBHAVA'S TEACHINGS & OM MANI PADME HUM
25 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY FLOWER STALL
27 - 31 DECEMBER	DECEMBER BHAVANA COURSE
29 DECEMBER	GENERAL MEETING 5.30 PM CHAN PAINTING CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSON
FEBRUARY	VIETNAMESE TEMPLES NEW YEARS VISITS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS 2008

Weekly teachings will start again at Burringa (DRCCC), 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey during February 2008.

A ten week course will be taught as an introduction to Buddhism for new students and also for our Members to benefit from helping to run the Teachings and from having the good conditions of meditation and blessings in the field of Sangha Members.

Suitable new students will be encouraged to continue learning Buddhism by attending the Saturday morning and Saturday evening Teachings at the Centre.

After the completion of the ten week course Abbot Anita Carter will conduct Sangha Meetings on Wednesday evenings for our experienced students to learn the Dhamma under her guidance.

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NEW COLOUR BROCHURES

On the 29th of November Frank Carter distributed approximately 300 of our new brochures and pamphlets to shops located in many of the main townships in the Dandenongs.

Lainie and Leonie will be placing brochures and leaflets into shops in the Upwey and Ferntree Gully areas during the next week.

SUMI-E AND CHAN PROGRAM

A new brochure has been created for the Chan Academy Painting School outlining the Chan and Sumi-e painting program.

Chan Painting taught by Melba Nielsen will run on the last Saturday of each month from 2 pm – 3 pm. Cost is \$20 per class.

Sumi-e Painting taught by Jan Bennet will run on the second Saturday of the month from 2 pm – 4 pm. Cost is \$25 per class.

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The sausage sizzle was a sizzling success with the sale of approximately 775 sausages. Our total sales for the day was \$1550 while expenses were \$592. We therefore made \$957 profit which is an increase over last year's profit. Thank you to all our helpers.

PRE-RECORDED BUDDHIST HOUR

The Buddhist Hour Radio program for Sunday 16th December has been pre-recorded and put on CD so that radio team members may attend the teachings of Venerable Dondrup Dorje.

On Sunday the presenter of the radio program before the Buddhist Hour at Mountain District Radio will start the CD at the end of his program.

METTA PRACTICE

Anita has suggested all Members could benefit greatly by spending the next one month period focusing on their metta practice.

This could be through chanting the metta sutta in Pali and English everyday, doing daily metta meditation using Venerable Mahinda's instructions on CD or sending metta to each person you are speaking with over the next four weeks.

It is important to set yourself short-term practice objectives like this to change your habitual behaviour for the better.

NEW STAIRS AND DECKING

Modifications and improvements to the back verandah area have been completed. This area is intended to become a beautiful outdoor space for tea, coffee and refreshments with a delightful view of the garden and meditation hall.

About 50% of the space is available now for Members use with further work to repair some floor rot to be done in the next 3 months.

REGULAR UPDATES

Anita will email weekly updates to all Office Bearers to keep them updated with any relevant information and centre news.

TEACHINGS AT BAYSWATER COMMUNITY HOUSE

Leonie Scott recently visited the Bayswater Community House to distribute our new brochures. While Leonie was there she met the manager who inquired if we could conduct an introductory teaching or even a short course on Buddhism.

We will schedule to conduct a suitable course early next year.

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DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDINGS

On 12 December 2007 we completed the setup of a IBM laptop including the hardware and software required to make digital recordings of audio texts.

We can now make high quality digital audio recordings via this laptop. We can use these files to play on the World Buddhist Radio and the Buddhist Hour Radio program.

The software we use is Pro Tools M-Powered which was donated to the Centre by Alec Sloman. The additional hardware used is a FireWire card, an M-Audio Box with a Pro Tools key, microphone, headphones, various cables and a safety plug in case of power surges. Thank you to Frank, who is happy for us to use his laptop.

The Centre purchased the hardware needed to follow the model as initially set up by Alec and as explained in our World Buddhist Radio Manual. The only difference is that we use a Windows machine instead of an Apple computer.

We are delighted to have this new technology available to record, distribute and preserve audio Buddha Dhamma materials.

The only item still needed to complete the system is a set of good quality headphones.

MEMBERS NEWS

Evelin Martin (formerly Evelin Halls) completed her Diploma of Education at Monash University. She received the Dean's Honour Award for outstanding academic achievements. In January 2008 Evelin will commence work at Mentone Girls' Grammar School to teach Information Technology and German.