



BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #17 FEBRUARY 2008

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

Dear friends in the Dhamma,
Happy New Year. Wishing all of you good health, long life, prosperity and much Buddha Dhamma learning in 2008. A big thank you to the Teachers of our Centre : Frank Carter, Melba Neilsen and Jan Bennett. Thank you for guiding and teaching.

I welcome Helen Costas as Chan Teacher in Training, under Melba's guidance

Our main goals this year are :

- To complete the digitisation of John D. Hughes Buddha Dhamma tape recorded Teachings that are over fifteen years old.
- Develop five members to manage our projects.
- Commence a class for children 5 – 12 years old
- Eight members to attend the WFB conference in Japan, Nov 2008.
- 30 Year celebration of Founders Day.
- Versak 2008.
- Vietnamese New Year Visits.

I love to see you all. Please feel free to participate as much as you like. I look forward to seeing you more this year. I love you all. ~Anita Carter

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 23rd of February 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 NURSING HOME

We are meeting with a member of the Ethnic Communities Council late in February to discuss our proposal with them. Any members interested in this project, please see Anita.

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| SATURDAYS | MEMBERS' DAY 10.00AM SANGHA MEETING 11.00AM BUDDHISM FOR BEGINNERS & CONTINUERS |
| SATURDAY EVENINGS | BUDDHA DHAMMA TEACHINGS BY THE VENERABLE SANGHA AND/OR MEDITATION GUIDED BY ANITA CARTER 8.00PM |
| 09/02/08 | SUMI-E CLASS |
| 14 FEBRUARY | VALENTINES DAY FLOWER STALL |
| 16 FEBRUARY | 2-3PM ARRIVAL HOA NGHIEM VIETNAMESE TEMPLE APPROX 450 PERSONS VISITING |
| 17 FEBRUARY | 10 – 10:30AM ARRIVAL QUANG DUC VIETNAMESE TEMPLE, APPROX 250 PERSONS VISITING |
| 17 FEBRUARY | 4-5PM ARRIVAL PHAT QUANG VIETNAMESE TEMPLE, APPROX 400 PERSONS VISITING |
| 20 TH FEBRUARY | WED NIGHT TEACHING AT BURRINJA START |
| 21 FEBRUARY | VENTURERS VISITING OUR CENTRE |
| 23 FEBRUARY | GENERAL MEETING 5.30 PM 2PM CHAN PAINTING CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSON |
| 21 MARCH | EASTER BHAVANA (MEDITATION COURSE) |

LIVE BETTER WITH METTA !

Anita suggests that all of us spend this year developing our metta practice.

This involves chanting the metta sutta in Pali and English everyday, daily metta meditation using Venerable Mahinda's instructions on CD and sending metta to each person you meet. Remember the words of the Buddha :

“It is through Love alone that hate is conquered”

THE BUDDHA, DHAMMAPADA, VERSE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS 2008

Weekly teachings will start again at Burrinja

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(DRCCC), 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey on Wednesday 20th February 2008.

A ten week course titled “Learn to Practice Buddhism” 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.

NEW COLOUR BROCHURES

Starting on the 29th of November Frank Carter distributed approximately 500 of our new brochures and pamphlets to shops located in the main townships in the Dandenongs and other outer Eastern centres such as Berwick, Bayswater, Boronia, etc.

We have been receiving an average of about 3 phone calls per week from the brochures which should continue throughout the year. Brochures will be distributed to other areas over the next few months such as Monash University.

REGULAR UPDATES

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

VIETNAMESE TEMPLES NEW YEAR'S VISIT

Here is an ideal way to practice your metta and

make merit. Come and help with hosting the Vietnamese Temple Visits. They have been coming here for 25 years.

We have three temples visiting this year. On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th February 2008, we will receive about 1200 persons over the two days. It is a wonderful occasion. The visitors are very courteous and friendly and grateful for being able to come here.

Our Founder John D. Hughes supported and helped some of these temples to set up when their Founders came to Australia during the 1970s and 1980s. They have a lot of gratitude to John Hughes. They also come to request healing from Padmasambhava. Please see Anita or Frank if you wish to help. We really need you.

Members are encouraged to help in preparation for and attend the Centre during the Vietnamese New Year Visits. The Centre will be prepared prior to each event in order that our guests can sit down and enjoy the Centre's surrounds.

You are needed to help serve refreshments during the visits, and to clean the Centre after the visits. On the day, Members are to wear name tags, greet guests at the Eastern and Southern gates, mingle with guests and make them welcome, direct visitors to the toilets, offer tea and other refreshments throughout their visit and tidy up after guests have departed.

VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWER STALL 1-8PM

On Thursday 14th February 2008, we will be running a fundraising flower stall for Valentine's Day in front of the Mobil Station on Boronia Road, Wantirna. Your help is greatly welcome. Please see Frank for details.

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MEETING WITH THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AT BARRINJA

On Friday 1st of February 2008, Anita and Frank attended an informal lunch meeting with the members of the Victorian Government. The Premier, Mr Brumby MP, addressed the gathering after a welcome to country speech was given on behalf of the Aboriginal people of this area.

This reminded us very much of the Buddha Dhamma practice of metta (loving kindness). We were able to speak to the Shire of Yarra Ranges CEO, Rob Hauser and the Mayor, Tim Heenen. It was a very enjoyable occasion with both Mr Hauser and Mr Heenan saying that they would love to attend our events. They said that many of their colleagues would also be most happy to attend.

VENTURERS VISIT TO OUR CENTRE

On Thursday 21st of February 2008 the local Venturer's group will be visiting our centre. Lainie Smallwood and Adam Richards will be organising the visit and giving the Teaching. If you would like to assist, please see Lainie or Adam.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Tree branches overhanging the hall were assessed as being too dangerous and a fire threat. These have been professionally lopped at a cost of \$650, the Centre has paid \$550 and Frank has donated \$100. The remainder of the tree will be removed in 12 months time at the Landlord's expense.

CERTIFICATE OF FINAL INSPECTION FOR THE NEW MEDITATION ROOM AND LIBRARY.

Anita Carter has received the Certificate of Final Inspection for the new meditation room and library. This means that the building is compliant with the approved Building Permit. We still need to do a few

things – install gutterguard and install the air conditioner donated by George Costas.

SHORT TERM MONK RETREAT

Adam Richards completed a two week short-term Monk retreat at the Yun Yan Temple from 24th Dec to 7th January 2008. Venerable Viriyananda and Master Ru Sun presided over the ordination ceremony. Master Ru Sun guided and taught the Novice Monks over the course.

Adam reported that he found the course very beneficial, especially in learning mindfulness training.

MEMBERS NEWS

Evelin and Ryan have moved to Mentone and Evelin commenced work at Mentone Girls' Grammar School to teach Information Technology and German.

Pennie White is highlighted on the World Buddhist University website.

Melba Nielsen has moved to Inverlock and is loving it very much. Melba will continue to teach Chan Painting on the last Saturday of each month at the Centre.

VENERABLE DONDRUP DORJE TEACHINGS ON GURU PADMASAMBHAVA

On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December we were honoured to host the teachings given by Venerable Dondrup Dorje. Venerable taught on the Seven Line Prayer and the mantra 'Om Mani Padme Hum' given by Guru Padmasambhava. Copies of the Seven Line Prayer and the mantra are kept on Padmasambhava's altar.

Notes of the teachings will be made from the recordings and placed on our website – www.bddonline.net.au.