

BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #18 MARCH 2008

Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
A.C.N. 005 701 806 A.B.N. 42 611 496 488
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ABBOT'S REPORT

Dear friends in the Dhamma,

Make merit, do good deeds of giving, keep your precepts, develop patience, loving-kindness and so on... the Ten Perfections, meditate daily, replace the unpleasant unwholesome thoughts of anger, hate, illwill, irritation, resentfulness with the thought "these thoughts and emotions are coming from my past actions, I have created the kamma to experience this" and let them go ~Anita Carter

ONE THOUSAND BUDDHAS OFFERING

Good news. We have officially placed an order with wholesaler House of Tibet to purchase the first 400 Buddhas for the installation into our hall.

The image chosen for our hall is costing us \$12 per ea and a number of our Members have agreed to sponsor the extra \$2 per image as we had originally budgeted for the images to cost us \$10 ea. We have paid a deposit of \$2000 and the images are now in production in Nepal.

At the moment we are planning an installation ceremony on the 24th of May which is the weekend immediately following our 2008 Versak celebrations. We will be inviting guests from the four Vietnamese Buddhist Temples who generously sponsored many of the these images.

Anita has made a wonderful suggestion that once we have completed installing the continuous row of Buddha's around the interior of the hall we can place a second row around the exterior of the hall. Wow!

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 29 March 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

SATURDAY WEEKLY	MEMBERS' DAY 11.00AM BUDDHISM CLASS FOR BEGINNERS & CONTINUERS
SATURDAY EVENINGS	8.00PM BUDDHA DHAMMA TEACHINGS BY THE VENERABLE SANGHA AND/OR MEDITATION GUIDED BY ANITA CARTER
SUNDAY WEEKLY	BUDDHIST HOUR RADIO PROGRAM 4.00PM – 5.00PM LIVE ON 3MDR 97.1FM
21 MARCH.	EASTER BHAVANA (MEDITATION) COURSE 11.00AM – 5.30PM FRI, SAT (TO 10.00PM) MON, TUE.
26 MARCH.	7.30PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT DHAMMA TEACHING (WEEKLY) AT BURRINJA, UPWEY.
29 MARCH.	2.00PM CHAN PAINTING CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSON. 2.30PM OPENING CEREMONY OF NEW HALL AT SHAKYAMUNI SAMBUDDHA VIHARA. 5.30PM GENERAL MEETING.
2 APRIL.	7.30PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT DHAMMA TEACHING (WEEKLY) AT BURRINJA, UPWEY
6 APRIL.	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL (MORNING)

GURU PUJA NOW PART OF MONTHLY PROGRAM

A Guru Puja will be held at the centre on the third Saturday of each month to make many causes for the long life of our Temple and causes and blessings for the students to learn the Dhamma.

The first of these Pujas was held on the 15th of March 2008.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS 2008

On 20 February we commenced our Weekly public Teaching program at Burrinja (DRCCC) at 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey.

We thank Venerable Liv Peo, Abbot of Wat Dhammaram, Springvale and Venerable Wimalananda, Abbot, Shakyamuni Sambuddha Vihara in Berwick for blessing the teaching with their presence.

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The evening, attended by 24 persons, took the form of chanting, a Dhamma talk, question and answer time, guided sitting meditation and offerings of flowers to the Venerable Sangha. The ten week course is an introduction to Buddhism for new students and 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.

People who ring the centre interested in learning Buddhism are encouraged to attend this course.



Wednesday Night Dhamma Teaching Class on the 12th of March with Venerable Liv Peo and Venerable Wimalananda.

COMMUNITY INTEREST IN BUDDHISM

On Saturday 19th of April at 2.30pm Frank and Anita will be giving a talk on Buddhism at the Glen Park Community House in Bayswater.

If there is sufficient interest at this talk our centre will conduct a 10 week course at the Community House (similar to our current course at Burringa) starting on Thursday the 1st May at 7.30pm.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VERSAK CELEBRATION MEETING.

The United Nations International Day of Versak will be held at the Springvale City Hall in Springvale on the Full Moon Day of Tuesday 20 May 2008.

The Interim Organising Committee, Chaired by Ven Thich Phuoc Tan met at Hoa Nghiem Temple in Springvale on 18 February 2008. The meeting was attended by Members of the Sangha, their attendants and our representatives Anita and Frank Carter.

The inaugural International Day of Versak celebration will commence at 6pm with a Youth Seminar, followed with the main ceremony at 7.00pm till 8.30pm. The ceremony will be opened with an address by the United Nations Representative and messages from Federal, State and Local Government.

A Dhamma talk will be given by a senior Member of the Sangha.

The ceremony program shall include chanting from the Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions. The evening shall conclude with a cultural program from 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

On the full moon day in May each year following a resolution of the 54th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, the United Nations has marked the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Siddhartha Gautama Buddha some 2500 years ago, and pays tribute to the contributions that Buddhism has made to the world's search for peace.

EASTER WEEKEND BHAVANA COURSE

The Easter Meditation course is being run from Friday 21st March 2008 to Tuesday the 25th of March 2008 at the Centre. The course is based on

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John Hughes Teachings on obtaining Refuge in Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha and Guru through meditations on the Bodhisattva Tara.

These recordings are a three CD set recently digitised by Helen Costas and will be transcribed during the next month for uploading onto our website www.edhamma.org.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF BUDDHISM

The Encyclopaedia of Buddhism, covering a vast field of Buddhist Doctrines and Philosophy, Culture and diverse Buddhist activities, has been planned to be completed in eight volumes and an Index volume.

The project was launched by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1955 to commemorate the 2500th Buddha Versak and is now reaching it's final completion stage with the final part of volume eight planned for printing in April 2008.

JOHN D. HUGHES DHAMMA CETIYA OPENING CONGRATULATED IN STATE PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

In the Parliament of Victoria on 19 September 2007 Mr James Merlino, Member for Monbulk and Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs gave the following congratulatory speech, which is recorded in Hansard.

"I wish to congratulate my local Buddhist community and members of the Sangha on the recent opening of the John D Hughes Dhamma Cetiya Meditation Hall and Library. Guests included representatives from the Burmese, Vietnamese, Sri Lankan, Cambodian and Thai communities, just to name a few, emphasising that in many ways Victoria's Buddhist community stands as a thriving microcosm of our state's diversity. The centre stands as a marvellous testament to the talent and generosity of individuals and groups, many of whom donated their time and expertise voluntarily.

'Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle', says Buddha. If the enthusiasm at John D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya Meditation Hall and Library is any guide, that candle of wisdom and compassion carried by John D Hughes will continue to light the way for generations to come. Congratulations to the Directors, Frank and Anita Carter and Evelyn Halls and Lainie Smallwood.

View photos of the Official Opening of the John D Hughes Dhamma Cetiya on 9 September 2007 at www.buddhaview.org.

VENERABLE ASHIN U PANDITA VISIT

Venerable U Pandita, Abbot of the Dhamma Sukha Burmese Temple located in Springvale, has kindly accepted our invitation to visit our Centre on some Saturday evenings to give Dhamma teachings and instruction.

Venerable is an excellent Dhamma teacher and is invited by the Buddhist Society of Victoria to give weekly teachings at their centre in Malvern as well as giving talks at the Buddhist Summer School and other venues in Australia and overseas.

He is currently in Indonesia conducting a retreat program in the Mahasi Sayadaw tradition and will be returning to Australia in about three weeks. Venerable's English is very clear and it will be a great blessing for us to host his visits.

We enthusiastically recommend all Members to make it a priority to attend these teachings.

OPENING CEREMONY SHAKYAMUNI SAMBUDDHA VIHARA

Venerable Wimilananda's Temple the Shakyamuni Sambuddha Vihara will conduct an Opening Ceremony for it's new hall and library in Berwick on the 29 March 2008.

The ceremony will commence at 2.30pm and

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conclude at 4.15pm. Venerable Wimilananda has invited any Members of our centre who wish to attend. We will be departing from Brooking Street at about 1.45 pm.

It is an excellent opportunity to join in the blessings of such an important occasion. Please advise Frank if you wish to come.

LIBRARY CATALOGUING PROJECT

Cataloguing of our extensive collection of Dhamma books has recommenced recently when Past Member Pam Adkins offered her help for this important project. It is really pleasing to see the library being worked in regularly and already quite number of new books have been catalogued.

New student Tanya Poynton also expressed an interest in helping with some of this work. Please contact Frank if you would like to participate in this meritorious project. Melba perhaps??



Pam Adkins, Tanya Poynton and Anita Carter in front of the Deva of Learning and Deva of Administration Altar and the John D Hughes Collection library cataloguing desk.

REGULAR UPDATES

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

DHAMMARAJIKA ORPHANAGE IN BANGLADESH

We recently received an email from Venerable Suddhananda asking that we convey his deep gratitude to our Members who have contributed to the support of the children of the Dhammarajika Orphanage. He hoped we would continue to think of their welfare. He said the children need our love and kindness at this difficult time.

Bangladesh is currently experiencing rapid price increases for basic foods such as rice and this is impacting severely on the orphanage.

Any Member who wishes to contribute money to the orphanage please place it in an envelope in the Dana box with Bangladesh Orphanage written on the envelope.

VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR VISITS

We were delighted to host three Vietnamese Temples for the celebration of the Vietnamese New Year over two weekends in February.

We received about 1100 guests on over days including Members of the Vietnamese Sangha Venerable Tam, Venerable Tang and Venerable Thich Nue Chan Kim.

It was a wonderful occasion for both ourselves and our guests and, as in previous years, we were inspired by the friendliness and generosity of the Vietnamese Buddhist community.

Members from one Temple sponsored about 50 Buddha images for the hall with one lady sponsoring 10 Buddha images on behalf of her family.