

BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #31, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010



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 Everyone

Happy New Year 2010.

I would like to see each one of you for about one hour each month on a one to one basis so I may talk with you and keep you close in my heart. This, I am seeing is very worthwhile and important for our relationship with each other. I must generate the causes to continue to be close to each one of you. I invite you to please make a time to see me - you can contact me on 0401 092 337 or send an email to anita@bdcu.org.au.

Well the Bhavana course generated many wholesome minds and merit. Thank you to all those that supported and assisted the course - to the cooks, the cleaners, the protectors, the carpark attendants, the dishwashers, the food and flower donators, the workers, the gardeners, the questioners, the offerers, the smilers, the students and learners, the looker afterers. In fact the course was a product of many beings, let us accept this course with gratitude. The course was taken to strengthen our exertions, for greed and opinion are strong, let us deserve this course. This course was taken to help us become clear and generous, let us maintain our attention. This course was taken to nourish and sustain our practice, let us continue to be moderate. This course was taken to help all beings practice the Buddha way, let us practice wholeheartedly. This is an effective method of recollecting the good things we have done with a view of cause and effect.

We sent many blessings to all beings with our New Years Bell Puja. May all beings benefit from this action.

Thank you with all my heart to Melba and Helen for continuing our tradition within the Chan Academy School of the Four Seasons. Thank you Tanya, our Food Manager, for nourishing us all

IMPORTANT DATES

SATURDAY WEEKLY	MEMBERS' DAY BUDDHA DHAMMA FOR EVERYDAY LIFE CLASS, 11:00AM
SATURDAY EVENINGS	BUDDHA DHAMMA MEDITATION TEACHING BY VENERABLE SANGHA OR GUIDED BY ANITA CARTER, 8.00PM
SUNDAY WEEKLY	BUDDHIST HOUR RADIO, 4:00-5:00PM
26 JANUARY	PUJA 11AM TO 1PM
30 JANUARY	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN, 9:30AM
30 JANUARY	GENERAL MEETING, 2:00PM
7 FEBRUARY	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
14 FEBRUARY	SUMI-E CLASS, 2:00-4:00PM (SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH)
14 FEBRUARY	VALENTINES DAY FLOWER STALL
27 FEBRUARY	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN, 9:30AM
27 FEBRUARY	GENERAL MEETING, 2:00PM
7 MARCH	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
13 MARCH	SUMI-E CLASS, 2:00-4:00PM (SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH)
27 MARCH	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN, 9:30AM

through out the year. Thank you to Julian for being our President and a supporter to all. Thank you to Helen, Peter, Frank and Adam for being our four pillars - our Directors. Thank you to all Members and students for being our Members and students - I love you all very much. Thank you to all our managers and helpers for helping our Centre continue to operate. May I continue to generate the causes to see you all doing such great things for the Buddha Sasene and waking up little by little FAST..... Saddhu. Saddhu. Saddhu.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE BUDDHA SASSENE

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We have before us a merit rich year! I invite each one of you to embrace these opportunities and take on one project at least that you commit to. This is what you need to fuel your learning of the Buddha Dhamma. We have an annual plan of the various projects, that we need help in. We are happy to show you and discuss with you the details of what is required and how much time will be needed. Julian, Frank and myself are there to support you and show you how – it is in the end a team effort, however, you will still make the merit you need.

Love,

Anita

VICTORIA UN VESAK 2010

Now! The UN Vesak committee has designed a fabulous event for this year's celebrations. The main event will be where, 2,600 persons meditate for 1 hour on the 22nd of May 2010 at the Melbourne Town Hall. This number represents the 2600 years of this Buddha sassene. A token will be given out nominating each meditator with a number which will represent that year of the Buddha Sassene. As the Melbourne Town Hall seats 2000 persons, the number will be made up by having persons meditating in regional centres around Victoria.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

There was a 'blue' moon (a rare second full moon in the month), on 31st December 2009, when our members celebrated the New Year and the end of our annual five day Bhavana Course. Anita, Frank and Geshe Michael Roach (recorded teaching) guided us towards seeing 'emptiness directly' during the Heart Sutra teachings. The moon was then covered by rain clouds, and the Dragon King gave us a spectacular thunder and lightening storm and the rain – blessed rain!

We brought in 2010 with a bell puja for all

members and David blew the Tibetan horn in the four directions for our protectors and devas. We shared the blessings of this course.

The Christmas Day flower stalls were successful, raising \$966. Other fund raising coming up are Valentines Day, 14 February 2010, Mothers' Day and the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Easter Sunday. These are great little earners for us and good fun – we will need personnel to help us. Please see Adam.

Air-conditioning of the Centre and offices got a good start with \$506 raised so far. Deena and Simon donated enough to gain Chan paintings of their choice, well done.

Testimonials from our John D. Hughes puja in 2009 on 'What John Hughes did for me' are being compiled for a possible book. If you would like to write your own, please email or send them to Frank with a signed statement giving your permission to have it published or not.

Anita's book, 'The love you are looking for' may be a starter. Pete Marshall gave Melba a printer and use of a laptop so she can become more active with writing. Thank you for your patience and guidance Pete – (the old pace-maker is working overtime with the stress!)

To reach full potential, we need merit – this means commitment to our temple, and the methods that brings results. After a decade of Melba putting in an appearance for one or sometimes no students, the Chan Academy in now thriving and 'The Way of the Brush' has two classes per month on the last two Saturdays, at 9:30am. Painters who use the Chan Academy with Anita, please use rice paper from now on, as the work is excellent, especially with strong 'yang' Bamboo from Frank and Julian and our other 'big' painters Alicia and Pennie.

Helen and I will be looking for work for the Chan Academy's 2010 Exhibition now suitable for

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mounting.

Large sheets of rice-paper can be purchased from Ziang David at www.chineseculture.com.au (ex little Bourke Street).

Thank you all for a wonderful year and a life saving one for me – I made 70! – Melba



THE BELL TOWER AT OUR CENTRE

FIVE-DAY BHAVANA COURSE REFLECTION

The Five-Day Bhavana Course on the Heart Sutra was facilitated by our Abbot Anita Carter. It was held from 27th December to 31st December 2009. During the course, each person identified what they wished to achieve by the end of the course and requested three times to be taught the Buddha Dhamma by saying “I request to be taught the Buddha Dhamma”. Students listened to a recorded teaching on the Heart Sutra by Geshe Michael Roach and did homework each day. Everybody had a one to one interview with Anita to review their progress and to work on their individual Life Plans. The students prepared and offered food for the course. In the afternoon students engaged in various merit making activities and we held our

monthly General Meeting. Everybody transferred and dedicated their merits made.

All students present commented that they learnt a lot during the course, some of them had life-changing experiences and insights. Some were able to come to a much clearer intellectual understanding of emptiness paving the path to make strong causes to come to full enlightenment; some students worked on the Six Perfections or developed their bodhicitta; everybody enjoyed chanting and studying the Heart Sutra, gained new knowledges on different levels and strengthened their Buddha Dhamma practice.

I would like to thank Anita Carter for her loving care and wisdom, for teaching us the Buddha Dhamma, and for her tireless efforts, which enabled this course to be possible. I would also like to thank Frank Carter for giving his time and energy to teach and for his great dedication to keep the Buddha Dhamma alive in our Temple and in this Buddha Sasene. Thank you, Anita and Frank, please continue to teach the Buddha Dhamma. Thank you to all the students, Devas and Devatas who came to learn and practice Buddha Dhamma. May you be well and happy, may all beings be well and happy!

By Evelin Martin

PARLIAMENT OF WORLD'S RELIGIONS CONFERENCE

The Parliament of World's Religions Conference was hosted by Melbourne Australia in December 2009. The Parliament of World's Religions Conference has been held every five years in a different country since its inception in Chicago 1893.

The conference is considered to be one of the world's largest inter-religious gathering, bringing together top world leaders of various traditions

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along with many of their followers. The conference promoted peace, diversity and sustainability through keynote speeches by speakers including past US President Mr Jimmy Carter, Professor Joy Mandin, Dr. Maria Julfa. There were also workshops, films, engagement sessions and many scholarly discourses that continued the themes of reconciling with indigenous peoples: overcoming poverty in a patriarchal world; sharing wisdom in search for inner peace; and building peace in pursuit of justice.

The mission statement of the original parliament in 1893 was to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

My personal experience of the parliament is that it was paradigm-shifting and life-changing. I entered the halls of the Melbourne exhibition Centre each day I felt as if I was being very soulfully transported into another dimension. So many high like-minded persons were present. So many bodhisattvas in disguise it would seem. It was both my honor and my privilege to be in the company of such radiant smiles of individuals and groups.

About twenty members from my choir, The Agape International choir from the United States were invited to participate in a pre-conference conference hosted by the New Thought Delegation made up of churches mostly from the USA and Australia. We also sang in the Parliament's Sacred Music Festival featuring other choirs including a Zoroastrian Choir.

One of the highlights of the conference for me was attending one of the inter-religious engagement sessions held on the very last day entitled: 'Beyond the dream-time: aboriginal belief systems & their deeper philosophic constructs'.

Another highlight was seeing His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in person and experiencing his most gracious humour and inspiring words of wisdom. A sacred and very transformational moment that I will not forget. By Michelle Hill

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR VISITS

This year we will be honoured by the visit of Hoa Nghiem Temple from Springvale for the celebration of Vietnamese New Year on Saturday 20th February at about 3:00pm.

We need plenty of helpers to assist the visits as we have to manage the bus parking very thoroughly. The Burringja carparks are not available for the buses because of the building works which have commenced there recently so we intend parking all the buses along one side of Glenfern Road. We need about 15 persons to help on the day of each visit. There are many benefits for your practice from participating in this great event.

FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

Peter Marshall has kindly accepted the new position of Fire Prevention Manager for our centre. This new role will provide more focus in our preparations to reduce fire risk and in our training to protect the centre during each years bush fire period.

Our preparations for this year concentrate on reducing the fuel load around all our buildings and minimising any access points on buildings for ember attack from an approaching fire.

Please put aside some of your valuable time to help us with this work to protect our centre. Part of appreciating and benefiting our centre is working to protect it when help is needed. We have a list of weeding, pruning and painting surface areas with fire retardant which all need to be done in the next few weeks. Please see Peter or Frank.

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Thank you Peter for accepting this important role.



LILY IN OUR GARDEN

VALENTINES DAY FLOWER STALL

This years Valentines Day Flower Stall will be held on Sunday the 14th of February. Planning will be finalised in the next two weeks and we will consider whether to run one or two stalls this year. Please mark your diaries for this event. Adam as Flower Stall Manager will contact you once the dates are finalised.

DANA

Some of our Members make a regular contribution for the running costs of our temple by direct deposit. If you would like to set up a direct deposit as a once off or ongoing arrangement please see Frank or Adam for the account details.

AIR CONDITIONER IN NEW OFFICE

The set-up of our new office is continuing with a second hand air conditioner being installed in the window to keep the room cool on hot days.

The money offered by Members for air conditioning will be used to install an evaporative system throughout most of the house including the kitchen and dining room areas. Adam will install this new system.

Please note that you may need to turn off the air conditioner in the office, when you wish to print a document from the printer as the air can blow the printed sheets off the printer.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We welcome Deena Ramsden and Ashley Robinson as Members.

Member Trish Allen and her husband Geoff have recently become grandparents. Grace May was born on the 2nd December.

Ashley Robinson has accepted a position as Vice Principle of a High School in the Shepparton area. Ashley will keep in touch by visiting the centre from time to time for classes and courses. We wish you and your family a happy and rewarding time in Shepparton.

Congratulations to Jakki and Mal. Jakki announced her engagement on New Years Eve! A very happy start to the year for both of them. We wish you both every happiness as you set off on this journey of marriage.

Simon has committed his time over the next two years to assisting with the running of our centre. Thank you Simon for this deep commitment.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all the Members who have contributed articles for this issue of the bulletin. Articles about our activities and events are needed monthly. If you have attended an event or manage part of our programs and would like to contribute please send your article to Pennie.