

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue 40, June 2011



Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
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Abbot's News

Anita and her family, including her Mother and Father, left for Paris on Tuesday 24 May at 3:00pm. Anita has taken her parents to give them the opportunity to visit the Vatican and Lourdes as they are Roman Catholics. They will also visit Paris, London, Istanbul and Western of Turkey.

We wish them safe travelling and an enjoyable, invigorating, harmonious, comfortable, joyous and happy journey! We wish then a safe return home on the 20 June. Bon Voyage!

President's Message

Happy Vesak!

Our Victorian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak on 21 May was a peak event and resounding success.

Thank you and well done to all our members.

From the moment you each arrived from early morning until we left the hall in the evening your involvement, enthusiasm and commitment to doing what was needed across so many areas was truly impressive.

Seeing the Monks and Nun's procession, in the Sangha robes, brought joy and happiness. The clear blue sky was like a canopy as the Sangha walked along Melbourne's streets like a precious river of good actions, with hundreds of lay followers and children in traditional costume walking together as one Buddhist community.

Arriving at the Melbourne Town Hall they were greeted by welcoming smiles, with the children and that most marvellous life-like swaying 'elephant' moving into the auditorium with applause and onto the stage with banners and flags held aloft.

After the Dhamma talk by Venerable Brahmavamso, the Sri Lankan drummers led the procession of Venerable Monks and Nuns into the hall. Seeing the stage replete with the Buddha

Important Dates

Saturday	Members' Day Merit Making
Saturday evenings	Buddha Dhamma Meditation Teaching by Venerable Sangha or guided by Anita Carter 8.00pm
Sunday Weekly	Buddhist Hour Radio 4-5:00pm
4 June	Introduction and Bamboo Class with Pennie White 9:30-10:30am
5 June	Camberwell Market Stall
11 June	The Way of The Brush 9:30- 10:30am – NO CLASS AT THIS TIME
11-13 June	Three Day Bhavana Course (winter)
18 June	Beginners Sumi-e Class with Julian Bamford 9:30-10:30am
25 June	Chan Class with Melba Nielsen 11.00am-12 noon

Sangha robes was an immense blessing to all there.

Then came the chanting of Dhamma, by the three traditions in Pali, Vietnamese, Chinese and Tibetan, followed by the quiet of near to 1400 persons sitting and following the meditation instructions.

Next were the Interfaith Readings with the sound of the didgeridoo and the heavenly voices of the Sikh blessing song.

We connected through the string to the one hundred Bodhi trees, enabling us all together to offer simultaneously the 100 Bodhi Tree's to the Buddha's Venerable Sangha.

The finale came with the vibrant energy and enthusiasm of our cast of performers who brought the 'Enlightenment of the Buddha' musical play to life.

Good in the beginning, middle and in the end.

With metta in the Triple Gem,
Julian Bamford (President)

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Victorian Commemoration of the United Nations Day of Vesak 2011

Our Victorian Commemoration of the United Nations Day of Vesak 2011 has received many emails of congratulations and thanks from guests, the Sangha and committee members. We were advised that many temples were already conducting their own Vesak event that day and so we did very well to have approximately 1400 persons in attendance at our Vesak Day event.

Other temples who joined with us have expressed their happiness at being involved and their continued commitment to helping again next year.

Many thanks have been expressed to our Temples' Members for the extraordinary organisation and support of this great event. This year was the best yet with the wonderful contributions of our first ever procession through Melbourne and the 'Enlightenment of The Buddha' musical, which received an ovation from our audience.

Peter Marshall made a video of most of the event on his own initiative and it is a precious record of a fabulous Vesak commemoration. We intend to make at least 100 copies of the DVD to give away over the next month or so.

Thank you all for your great work.

Report on the Dhamma Talk by Ajahn Brahm on the UN Vesak Day

What a day to remember!

One highlight of the UN Vesak Day was the Dhamma talk given by the Venerable Ajahn Brahm, London born Theravada Buddhist monk and Abbot of Bodhiyana Monastery, located in hills south of Serpentine in Western Australia. His full name is Ajahn Brahmavamso Mahathera. What a great Dhamma talk!

What a great teaching and truly universal message for such an auspicious occasion: treating others,

whoever they are, as human beings, not as their presenting problems, or other symptoms of behaviour.

What a well-balanced and integrated Dhamma talk - about the real dangers of exclusivity and attachment to our different labels.

Although being from various lineages, schools and traditions, at the end of the day we are all Buddhists. This is what matters. This is what connects us to each other as people and as members of the wider world Buddhist sangha. It is our daily practice of loving kindness to ourselves, and others that counts.

Michelle Hill

Photographs: Versak 2011

Paul Reid, one of the official photographers for Vesak 2011, has uploaded some photos of the event. Photos can be viewed at:

www.threadoftime.com.au/photography/Vesak_2011_Melbourne.html.

A video of the event was also made. Once edited, free copies will be offered to our Organising Committee members and all Victorian Buddhist temples.

UN Vesak in Sydney

Frank attended the Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak at Sydney Town Hall on Sunday the 29th of May from 6pm – 9pm. The invitation was extended by Mr Henry Dang, who is one of the main event organisers.

Mother's Day Flower Stall

The annual Mother's Day Flower Stall, on Sunday 8th May 2011, was a day where we created wholesome karmas by the donation of our time to a beneficial activity, while financially supporting the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. so it can continue to fulfil its purposes now and for the next



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five hundred years.

Julian and Amir set up the conditions for the flower stall to be a successful and beneficial fundraiser followed by help throughout the day from Simon, David, Herro, Romy, Ashley, Leonie, Evelin, Melba, Sally, Tanya, Leanne and Pennie.

Helping with the flower stall with a generous and friendly mind contributes to our perfection of dana and with our other practices brings forth the other perfections, to enable the fruition of Buddhahood.

May this flower stall run smoothly and fulfil all objectives.

May all the beings develop profoundly in their perfection of dana.

May you actualise the mother of all Buddhas.

Adam Richards

Chanting Request

All members are invited to chant at the centre. There will be chanting in the hall each day to help maintain the blessing field at the Centre during Anita's absence. Anita will also be chanting each day while she is away.

There will be chanting each morning around 6am - the time Simon usually chants, and late afternoon or evening. It is best to allow 15 minutes, but you can chant longer if you wish.

Wheel Days

Member Kate Ryan has reported that the Tibetan Calendar recognises the following dates as Wheel Days, when the effects your positive or negative actions are multiplied 10,000,000 times: 15 June, 3 August and 17 November 2011.

Chan Bhavana Course

We are pleased to announce that the Three Day

Chan Bhavana Course will run from Saturday 11 June until Monday 13 June 2011 (Queen's Birthday Weekend). The theme of the course is 'Joyful Effort'.

Please note the usual 9:30am Saturday Chan class will not run.

The three-day program is as follows:

Saturday

11am-1pm Chan with Teacher Melba Nielsen

1pm-2pm Lunch

2pm-5pm Chan projects: Relocation of the John D. Hughes image, The Way of the Garden

6-7pm Dinner

8pm Saturday night will be our usual meditation night

Sunday

11am-1pm Chan with Teacher Melba Nielsen

1pm-2pm Lunch

2pm-5pm Chan projects lead by Frank Carter: Relocation of the John D. Hughes image, The Way of the Garden

5pm Close

Monday

11am-1pm Chan with Teacher Melba Nielsen (including mounting works on to canvas)

1pm-2pm Lunch

2pm-5pm Chan projects lead by Frank Carter: Relocation of the John D. Hughes image, The Way of the Garden

5pm Close

Any members wishing to assist with lunch on the three days or dinner on Saturday please email Frank and let him know which meal/day.

The course will end 5pm on Sun and Monday.

We will be happy to see you all there if you can

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come.

Please RSVP to Frank to advise when you are coming.

Monthly Market Stall Fundraiser

May all our fundraising projects be successful and our fundraising income increase with ease.

If you, family or friends have something you do not want to throw out but do not need to keep, the second hand market may turn one person's junk into another's treasure. Please see Sue Goodes if you have items to donate.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

On Sunday 17th July we are running a Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunnings Scoresby, 1467 Ferntree Gully Road, from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

We need a team of at least 10 persons to conduct the stall and we ask you to please make some of your time available to help us conduct this enjoyable fund raiser for our centre.

Please advise Julian as soon as you can what times you will be available. We also need at least three persons help on Saturday the 16th of July to prepare the food for the sausage sizzle.

Dana – Receipts

Thank you to all members and friends for putting your dana receipts into the dana box. The centre is aiming to record all dana that has been made, with and without GST.

Please try to remember to pay for dana items separately as it makes it much easier to record receipt details. We will still enter 'mixed' receipts. Please continue to collect your dana receipts and bring them to the centre as it helps make good causes.