



Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #51, February 2013

Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
A.C.N. 005 701 806 A.B.N. 42 611 496 488
33 Brooking Street, Upwey, Victoria 3158
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New Year Blessing Cards

We are sending out New Year Blessing Cards to approximately 120 Victorian Buddhist Temples and approximately 170 World Fellowship of Buddhist Regional Centres, making a total of around 300 cards. This is a very meritorious offering.

Thank you to Tanya Poynton for organising the project and to all of the volunteers who have helped write the addresses and messages on the envelopes and cards, and for stamping the back with our Centres details. There is still more to do, if you would like to donate your time please speak to Tanya Poynton.

The task is a costly one as we are sending the cards through out Victoria and around the world and the cards have been professionally printed. In total about \$625. We request your kind help in funding the project.

The greeting inside the card which follows below is our wish for us, our Centre and each of the Buddha Dhamma Centres.

Greetings for the New Year 2013:

May this greeting find you in the heart of the Buddha Dhamma,

May you and your families be well in mind and body,

May the Buddha Dhamma Teachings flourish at your Centre,

May all that you need come to you swiftly, with ease, at the right time,

May you and your centre be supported by the noble Sangha,

May you have success and prosperity this new year and into the future.

With Loving-Kindness

Yours in the Buddha Dhamma

From

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia

Important Dates

Saturday	Dana Practice 11.00–6.30pm
Weekly	
Saturday	Meditation and Teachings 8.00pm
Evenings	
Sunday	Buddhist Hour Radio 4–5.00pm
Weekly	97.1FM
3 February	Camberwell Market Stall
23 February	Hoa Nghiem Temple Visit.
First Saturday	Chan Painting Class: 11–12.00pm.
of each month	Starting in March.
3 March	Camberwell Market Stall.
23 March	UN Day of Vesak Fundraising Dinner at Quang Minh Temple.
29 March –	Four Day Easter Bhavana Course.
1 April	
30 March	General Meeting 5:30pm
11 May	UN Day of Vesak at Melbourne Town Hall.
20 October	Master’s Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser.
10 November	Bunning’s Sausage Sizzle.

“Mind is the fore-runner of (all evil) states. Mind is their chief; and they are mind-made. If one speaks or acts with an impure mind, then suffering follows one even as the wheel follows the foot of the ox. Mind is the fore-runner of (all good) states. Mind is chief; mind-made are they. If one speaks or acts with pure mind, because of that, happiness follows one, even as one’s shadow that never leaves.”

(The Buddha. Verse 1 & 2 – Dhammapada)

On the following page is the photo on the Blessing Card’s front cover; thank you Moira Fallon for taking this beautiful photo.

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Photo: Quan Yin Statue at the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia, January 2013.

Lunar New Year Vietnamese Visits

Each year since the early 1980's we have welcomed several large groups of Vietnamese lay Buddhists and monks and nuns to our Centre for Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

We usually receive about 1000 guests over two weekends, this year there may be a third visit from Hue Quang Temple, in Sunshine. We have received the date confirmation of the biggest visit of up to 10 buses from Hoa Nghiem Temple on Saturday 23 February 2013 and we will inform you asap when Phat Quang Temple plans to visit.

It is a wonderful occasion for both ourselves and our guests and, as in previous years, we are inspired by the friendliness and generosity of the Vietnamese Buddhist community. This is also our largest annual fundraiser.

Our Founder John D. Hughes supported and helped some of these temples to set up such as Hoa Nghiem Temple which he helped with their applications to the local council for a planning permit. Also when the first Vietnamese refugees came to Australia during the 1970s and 1980s John invited them to visit our centre as there were no Vietnamese Buddhist Temples in Melbourne for their community. They have a lot of gratitude to John Hughes. Some of our guests also come to request healing from Padmasambhava.

We ask all of our Members to please be here to welcome our visiting Vietnamese community. We need lots of help to host these visits and it's a great day to be part of. We will be in touch soon to let you know what you can do to help prepare our Centre in order that our guests can sit down and enjoy the Centre's surrounds. On the day volunteers 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, serve tea and other refreshments throughout their visit and tidy up the Centre after the guests have departed.

Dhammarajika Orphanage

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia has been raising funds and supporting the Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh since 1983, donations given have been greatly needed and appreciated.

We have two Dhammarajika Orphanage donation boxes on display at the Ishka stores in Fitzroy and Richmond. The Ishka stores have been a very important source of funding for the Dhammarajika Orphanage for many years. We thank the Managing Director of Ishka and their staff for the support they have given. Julian recently visited the two stores and the money collected was \$34.95 from Ishka in Fitzroy and \$10.75 from Ishka in Richmond.



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Well done Julian for your continued help in maintaining this important fundraising project for Dhammarajika Orphanage.

Christmas Day Flower Stall

Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare and run our two Christmas Day Flower Stalls making the day a great success. A very big thank you to our Flower Stall Manager Adam Richards for his efforts collecting the flowers, preparing the equipment and both stalls for us, especially on Christmas Eve. Also thank you to Frank and Nicole for their extra help this year.

Fortunately Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December 2012) was a pleasant day with perfect weather for selling flowers. Our Centre's total net profit from our two stalls was \$899.23, with only four bunches of flowers remaining at the end of the day. This is an excellent outcome for all of our efforts. In addition we raised \$50.80 for the Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh.

Our next Flower Stall Fundraiser will be held on Mother's Day; falling on Sunday the 12th May 2013.



Photo: Simon Kearney and Amir Rouhi at our Flower Stall Fundraiser on 25 December 2012. Photo taken by Zari Rouhi.

Christmas Garden Party

This year the Christmas party was held in our Heavenly Dhamma Garden, with a long dinner table setup in front of the Buddha Rupa Altar. Members and friends participated in the offering of meals and as part of our Centre's tradition the giving out of small Christmas Dhamma gifts and everyone getting the opportunity to say a speech.

This year we also had a Chan painting exhibition displayed on the Sariputta Room Wall, with Chan Paintings by Master John D. Hughes, Melba Nielsen and others.

The evening continued late into the night with us all singing Christmas Carols on stage in front of the John. D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya Meditation Hall. Thank you to David Martin for playing the ukulele to our many Christmas carol requests. We look forward to you playing again next year and also to seeing the Boy's Brooking Street Choir perform again and again. Well done to everyone who got involved in this really fun occasion.

Australia Day

Happy Australia Day! Fortunately Australia Day this year falls on a Saturday. You are all warmly invited to attend a Medicine Buddha Puja at 11.00am followed by an Aussie BBQ lunch.

We hope you can join us in celebrating our great country and our good fortune for being Australian residents. Everyone's presence will make it a fantastic, enjoyable day.

Five Day Bhavana Course

Our annual Christmas Five Day Bhavana course lead and supported by our Abbot Anita Carter was focused on the text 'Guide to the Bodhisattva's way of life' (Bodhicaryavatara) by Shanti Deva.

The first day of the Bhavana course opened with each student making a request three times to be taught the Buddha Dhamma, and a personal wish to accomplish during the course. Students then offered

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dana to six Venerable Sangha from the Wat Dhammaram Temple in Springvale.



Photo: Visiting Sangha from Wat Dhammaram at the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia, on 27 December 2012; first day of our Five Day Bhavana.

Throughout the course students were assigned to various meritorious tasks such as planting new plants in the gardens, moving a two metre white marble Quan Yin statue to its new home in the Chan garden, and providing meals for fellow students. To have our Sangha supporting each other in friendship and harmony working together doing merit making tasks is a joy to see and strengthens ones resolve.



Photo: Frank Carter, David Martin, Amir Rouhi,

Simon Kearney and Peter Marshall in our Chan Garden on Five Day Bhavana Course, Dec 2012.

During the classes students studied and contemplated the text and related commentary followed by discussions. This text by Master Shantideva is quoted as being “the source to cultivate altruism and the spirit of awakening” by H.H. the Dalai Lama. The text is written in stanzas like many other ancient Buddhist scriptures, and is an inspiring guide to practicing as a Bodhisattva by developing the six perfections.

The benefit of studying and practicing this text is to realise the minds we accept as ourselves are not the only minds we have. The text exhorts us to make relentless efforts to learn and practice whilst we have the favourable conditions and to then see merit and wisdom is the only way to strengthen ones energy to go against our karmic disposition and as Anita says, become ‘your own hero in your life’.

The course closed with our annual fancy dress New Year’s Eve party with the theme “My Favourite Hero”. The bell puja for the New Year was performed at midnight with the sharing of the merits and metta to all beings.



Photo: Members moving Quan Yin Statue on our Five Day Christmas Bhavana Course, Dec 2012.

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Four Day Bhavana Course

A Four Day Bhavana (Mind Development) Course will be held at our Centre over the Easter period from Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April 2013. We hope to see you back again. Further details are coming.



Photo: Abbot Anita Carter in our Chan Garden on our Five Day Christmas Bhavana Course.

Monthly Market Stall Fundraiser

The Camberwell Market Stall on Sunday 6th January 2013 raised \$210.50 profit for our Centre and \$4.50 for Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh. Well done to the team for the day and thank you to those who donated second hand goods.

Our monthly Camberwell Market Stall is in need of suitable second hand donated goods which we can sell to raise funds. If you have any items to donate please see Frank.

Buddha Dhamma Teaching Program for 2013

Our 2013 Schedule will be as follows:

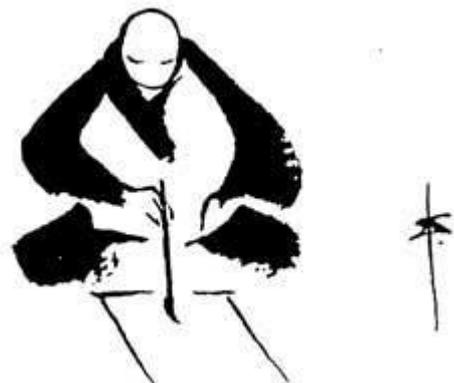
Our working bee continues at our Centre each Saturday from 11.00am as we have our yearly maintenance period and prepare for our Lunar New Year Vietnamese Visits.

Our 2013 Semester 1 Buddha Dhamma Course will commence in March and students will be notified closer to the date of this year's teaching topic and schedule.

Saturday evenings Buddha Dhamma Teachings and Meditation Guided by visiting or resident Dhamma Teachers, every Saturday evening from 8.00-9.30pm.

The Buddhist Hour Radio Program at 3MDR Radio Station 97.1FM, each Sunday from 4-5pm. Well done to Sally Kelly for learning the control panel. If you would like to get involved please see Simon Kearney the Executive Producer.

This year starting in March we will be conducting regular classes in Chan Painting at the Chan Academy. Chan painting classes will be taught by Chan Painting Teacher Anita Carter on the first Saturday of each month from 11.00am – 12.00pm. Cost: \$20 per class. We acknowledge the Chan Masters of the past, present and future.



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New Years Eve Party

Our Five Day Bhavana Course concluded with our New Year's Eve Party where everyone came dressed as their favourite hero. We were treated to a musical performance by Claire Ransome (violin) and David Martin (bassoon) followed by the male students then the female students singing some songs. We then gathered in the John D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya Meditation Hall, where we sat in meditation before commencing the Bell Puja to welcome the New Year and share the merits with all beings for a prosperous year to come.



Photo: Anita Carter, Zari Rouhi and Sally Kelly at our New Year's Eve Party on 31 December 2012.

UN Day of Vesak

Planning has begun for this year's United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration. This is a joint project of our many Victorian Buddhist communities and temples.

The event is booked at Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday 11th of May 2013 and a Fundraising Dinner will be held on Saturday 23rd March 2013 at Quang Minh Temple. Please mark these important dates in your diary.

Surangama Puja

A Surangama Puja was held on New Year's Day, Tuesday 1st January 2013 from 11.00am. The Puja was guided by our Abbot Anita Carter, and all members were welcome to attend. May the merit of these good actions maintain the Buddha Sāsene.

In the Dharma Ending Age, the Surangama Sutra is the first to disappear, and the rest of the sutras disappear after it. If the Surangama Sutra does not disappear, then the Proper Dharma Age is present.

Our Centre has pledged to conduct a Surangama Puja annually and aspires to do so each year on either New Year's Day or Australia Day.

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

I am happy to announce our first Master's Home Improvement Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser held on Saturday 12th January 2013 raised \$839.16 for our Centre and \$26.30 for Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh.

A heartfelt thank you for your time and joyful effort in making this day a great success. Also thank you to Sally, Tanya, Kate and Nicole for cutting up 20kgs of onions the day before.

As you are already aware we are now operating three sausage sizzles per year, one at Bunnings Warehouse, Scoresby and two at Master's Home Improvement, Knoxfield.

Our next two Sausage Sizzles Fundraisers are booked on Sunday 20th October 2013 at Master's Home Improvement and Sunday 10th November 2013 at Bunning's Warehouse. Please mark these important dates in your calendar. We look forward to working harmoniously with you again.



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Recipe of the Month:

Babas Potato Salad

Ingredients:

- Baby potatoes (6-8)
- Red onion (small)
- Mint (3 tablespoons – fresh or dry)
- Smoked paprika powdered spice (1 teaspoon)
- Normal paprika powdered spice (1 teaspoon)
- White vinegar
- Extra virgin olive oil

Method:

Gently boil potatoes whole, with skin on until tender.

Allow to cool and then cut in half or quarters.

Cut up onion and mint and combine all ingredients in a bowl.

Sprinkle with white vinegar and olive oil.

This was my Baba's recipe (Baba is the Macedonian word for grandma).

This is a quick, simple and delicious side dish for summer barbeques.

Enjoy, metta Nicole

Recipe Contributions

Thank you Nicole for contributing a recipe for this issue of the bulletin; a recipe is needed bi-monthly.

If you have made a meal for our Centre and would like to share it, please email the recipe to us.

Please also write down why you like this recipe.



Photo: David Martin, Zari Rouhi and Clair Ransome at our fancy dress New Year's Eve party with the theme "My Favourite Hero".

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Abbot Anita Carter in our Chan Garden on our Five Day Bhavana Course, December 2012.

