

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #83, September 2017

Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
A.C.N. 005 701 806 A.B.N. 42 611 496 488
33 Brooking Street, Upwey, Victoria 3158
Phone / fax – 03 9754 3334

Email – chanacademy@bdcu.org.au web – www.bdcu.org.au



Melbourne University - School of Design



Photo: Professor Qinghua, School of Design architecture students, our Abbot Anita Carter, President Frank Carter and Sally Kelly, 27th July 2017.

On Thursday the 27th of July, the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia hosted the site visit of Professor Qinghua and sixteen architecture students from Melbourne University School of Design in preparation for their design project based on our centre as part of their academic work and assessment.

The same group also attended our centre on the 21st of September to present their proposed designs for our site and for our new pavilion. The presentation was used by Professor Qinghua to critique their work before their final assessment, which occurs in front of a panel of Professors on October the 31st at Melbourne University.

Members of our centre are invited to the university to view the final presentations.

Important Dates

<i>Every Saturday</i>	Members' Day 11am-10pm Merit Making and Classes
<i>Every Saturday</i>	Bringing Wisdom To Life Teachings 2pm-4pm
<i>Every Saturday</i>	Buddha Dhamma Teachings and Meditation Class 7:30pm-9:30pm
<i>Every Sunday</i>	Buddhist Hour live on 3MDR 97.1fm 4:00pm-5:00pm
<i>Every Thursday</i>	Mahamudra Teachings 8pm-10pm
<i>Thursday 21st September</i>	Melbourne University School of Design Students attending our centre.
<i>Saturday 23rd September, 2.00pm</i>	Bringing Wisdom to Life Course - The Legacy of The Buddha.
<i>Wednesday 27th September – Sunday 1st October</i>	Five Day Bhavana Course Teachings on The Heart Sutra. 10.00am – 9.00pm
<i>Saturday 30th September</i>	Padmasambhava Tsok
<i>Saturday 30th September</i>	Ch'an Painting Class, 11am-12:30 pm, Class fee \$20.
<i>Tuesday 31st October –</i>	Melbourne University Architecture students Final Presentations at Melbourne University 9.00am – 7.00pm

In a separate project at the University School of Design, a one fifth scaled replica of a 12th Century Chinese pagoda is being built by students as part of

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their current architecture course. The pagoda, which has around 300 individual components made from Canadian Oregon wood, will be assembled by the students at the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia in December 2017.



Photo: A computer-generated image of the one fifth scaled replica of a 12th Century Chinese pagoda to be installed at our Centre.

39th Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting Grand Dinner was held on the 13th of August at the Asian Gourmet Hut in Doncaster East followed by a Karaoke session at KBOX Karaoke in Forest Hill. All who attended had a fantastic night.

Some of the activities our Members have been involved with in the past 12 months include:

1. Weekly Dhamma and meditation Classes on Saturdays and Thursdays
2. Weekly "Buddhist Hour" Radio Show on 3MDR 97.1fm
3. Attendance and rapport building at the 2016 World Fellowship of Buddhists Conference and World Buddhist University Council Meeting in

Seoul, South Korea

4. Visit Taiwan and receive teachings from Shang Longrik Gyatso Rinpoche
5. Offer robes to the Sangha at multiple Kathina ceremonies across Melbourne
6. Offer food to the Sangha at our Centre and at other Temples
7. Assist with organising and running the Victorian Observation of the United Nations Day of Vesak at the Melbourne Town Hall
8. New Website launch
9. Ch'an painting exhibition at The Nobbies, Phillip Island
10. Mothers Day Flower Stall Fundraiser
11. Sausage Sizzle Fundraisers
12. Host approximately 700 guests at our Centre over 2 days during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Temple tours
13. Transfer A\$7,255 to Dharmarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh with much of the donations collected at Ishka stores across Australia
14. Raise \$800 and many boxes of stationary and school materials and overhead projectors for Bading Elementary School in the Philippines
15. Hosting visit and talk from Tibetan Medicine Specialist, Dr Barry Clark

...And much more! We look forward to the next 12 months as we walk the Buddha Dhamma Path together.

Thank you to our Abbot, Anita Carter, for your loving guidance, devotion and wisdom. Thank you to our President, Frank Carter, and our Office Bearers, for all you do to ensure our Centre is running smoothly. And thank you to our Members and Friends for being a part of this community and keeping the Dhamma in your heart.

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We welcome and thank Julian Bamford as a newly elected Director and also congratulate Peter Marshall and Evelin Martin who have become Life Members of our centre in recognition of their long time participation and support.

We warmly thank all who attended the meeting and congratulate and thank our newly elected team of Directors and Office Bearers for your goodwill, generosity and support of our centre in this significant way.



Photo: Members and Students of the Buddhist Discussion Centre gather in front of the Western Gate at our Centre on the occasion of our 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia 39th Anniversary

On Saturday the 9th of September, the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia celebrated its 39th anniversary of the day our centre was founded in 1978.

This occasion was celebrated by offering Dana to the Venerable Buddhist Monks Venerable Sambath Sam from Wat Buddharangsi Buddhist Temple and the Venerable Piyananda from Dhamma Sarana Temple.

Also our Directors Anita, Frank, Peter and Simon

and Vice President Claire each gave a short talk on one of the five styles of friendliness, practicality, scholarship, professionalism and cultural adaptability which our centre follows and cultivates in all our activities.

Leading up to our 40th Anniversary to be celebrated on the 9th of September 2018 our centre planning to complete the following special milestones:

1. Dana offerings to 40 Buddhist Monks and Nuns during 2017 and 2018 leading up to 09/09/2018
2. A Chan painting exhibition and garden party at our centre and at the Nobbies in early 2018
3. Our weekly Buddhist Hour Radio program on 97.1FM to run one year of programs focusing on the history of the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia leading up to 09/09/2018
4. Blessings for the long life of our centre on the 09/09/2018
5. Commemorations are being made by:
6. Publishing a book about the Buddha's legacy
7. Publishing a book about Chan painting
8. Building a Buddha image house in a traditional Asian style for our main Buddha image at our centre
9. Creating a residential care village with Buddhist principles

Further information on these projects will be made on our website and Facebook.

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Photo: Visit by the Venerable Piyananda from Dhamma Sarana Temple, Keysborough and Venerable Sambath Sam, Wat Buddhangersi, Springvale, on the occasion of Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia's 39th anniversary.

Charitable project to provide funds for school children in the Philippines

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia recently conducted a charitable project to provide funds and writing materials to about 600 school children in the Philippines.

Bading Elementary School located on Mindanao Island is one of the poorest schools in the Philippines with over half of the 600 children being unable to afford the annual school fee of A\$3.60 to pay for basic school supplies. Our project focused on raising money, which would be used directly for the children's annual school fees together with requesting donations of writing materials from pen manufacturers and wholesalers in Australia.

The result of our project is we have raised about \$800 in cash which was kindly donated by members and friends of our centre, together with members families, and received donations of many thousands of pens and markers and some overhead digital projectors which will be shipped to the school.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed funds for the children and also those who helped through the donation of stationary and equipment including COS Sydney and Newell Brands Melbourne for their generous donation of pens and markers.

Please refer to the photos following this article of children at the school with some of the items purchased with the money we donated, and the vanload of pens and markers being handed by Frank to his Brother Bruce who is organising their shipment to the Philippines.

We welcome any further donations of funds in particular. Your donation will go directly towards the quality of education at Bading Elementary School. If you would like to support the school please email Frank at wbu@bdcu.org.au



Photos: The Teachers and Students of Bading Elementary School receive some of the donations.

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Photo: President of the Buddhist Discussion Centre, Frank Carter and his brother, Bruce Carter, with the van load of donated pens ready to be sent to the Philippines.

September Dhamma Course

The Buddhist Discussion centre Australia will present Dhamma teachings and meditations on The Heart Sutra during our 5 Day September Bhavana Course.

The Heart Sutra is a Wisdom Teaching from the Mahayana tradition.

Our September course will give students a clear understanding and appreciation of its significance and benefit to practitioners on the Buddhist Path.

The course is free of charge and will be held from the 27th of September to the 1st of October. For further information or to participate please email wbu@bdcu.org.au

Venerable Ros Serey from Wat Dhammaram Temple visit

Thank you to Venerable Ros Serey from Wat Dhammaram Temple in Springvale. He visited the

Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia on Saturday 5 August 2017 so we could offer Dana, and guided us in mediation.



Photo: Venerable Ros Serey is pictured here in front of the Buddha Rupa image in our garden with his attendant and some of our members.

Member News

Brooke Cross and Udeshika Gunasekera were elected as new members at the general meeting on the 29th of July. We welcome you both as friends and Members of our Sangha community.

Child Safe Policy and Response to the Royal Commission on Family Violence.

Any Member of our centre who is likely to be in contact with children visiting our centre is required by law to hold a current Working With Children Check.

In addition, on 1 July 2017 the Victorian State Government introduced a Reportable Conduct Scheme to oversee allegations of child abuse or misconduct towards children.

It is now mandatory for heads of organisations such



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as our centre under the scheme to notify the Commission for Children and Young People of a reportable allegation of child abuse, or misconduct towards children, made against their workers or volunteers.

The Reportable Conduct Scheme does not replace existing obligations to report allegations of child abuse to Victoria Police or child protection.

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia is formulating a Child Safe Policy and procedures for children visiting our centre with the kind help of Kym Merriman.

Also Kym will help us to prepare our centres response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence which has made its finding available to the public in an extensive series of documents, including 227 recommendations of programs and improvements to be made to existing systems.

Recommendation 165 from the commission read as follows:

Faith Leaders and communities establish processes for examining ways in which they currently respond to family violence in their communities and whether any of their practices operate as deterrents to the prevention or reporting of, or recovery from family violence or are used by perpetrators to excuse or condone abusive behaviour.

It is intended that all communities of faith by 2018 will be safe, open, gender equity and non-violent places.

Fundraising

Our 1000 Buddha images sponsorship project has helped us raise much needed funds for the construction of our meditation hall and library and now for our proposed Buddha Image House that is being designed presently.

It was decided at our Annual General Meeting held on the 12th of August 2017 that the cost of

sponsoring a Buddha image be increased to \$100 inc GST per image.

This will help us raise the funds needed to complete the construction of our Buddha image house and pay for the purchase of the images themselves. We intend to install the balance of the 1000 Buddha images inside the new building. It is estimated the new building will cost at least \$20,000 to complete.

Overall we have received sponsorships for 744 of the 1000 Buddha images with 149 images having been sponsored since 1st January 2017. This is largely due to the kindness of Members of Hoa Nghiem Temple who pledged many sponsorships after their Vietnamese New Year visit this year.

Our next fundraiser will be a Sausage Sizzle Stall at Bunnings Scoresby on Melbourne Cup Day, Tuesday 7th November 2017.

Upcoming Kathina Ceremonies.

Mid October marks the end of the Buddhist rain's retreat, which means it is the time of year where members of various Buddhist communities can offer robes to the Sangha as part of the Kathina Ceremony.

The first Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony is going to be held on Saturday 7th October 2017 at Manohara Forest Monastery at 251 Heard Avenue in Plenty. Arrive at the venue at about 9:30am.

The next two events are on Sunday 8th October. One is at Wat Buddharangsi (150 Clarke Rd, Springvale) and the other is at Shakyamuni Sambuddha Vihara (125 Homestead Road, Berwick). Both Ceremonies begin at approximately 9:30am.

The next Kathina Ceremony is for the Box Hill Thai Buddhist Temple (Wat Thai Nakorn) on the 15th of October at Box Hill Town Hall. It begins at approximately 9am depending on whether you wish to join in the procession leading up to the offering ceremony.

Another Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony is going to be held on 22nd of October at Dhamma Sarana at

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329-335 Greens Road, Keysborough. Please arrive at about 9:30am.

Robes can be obtained through a donation of \$50 to \$100 each, depending on which Temple you wish to attend. Please notify Simon Kearney at the Centre by Wednesday the 20th September 2017 on 03 97543334 or 0488 666 720 if you wish to purchase a robe.

It is a rare opportunity to offer robes to the Sangha as it is one of the most powerful methods of making merit for a Buddha Dhamma practitioner, so we encourage everyone to attend this special occasion.



Photo: Our Abbot Anita Carter taken in 2014

Monthly Recipe

RAW CARAMEL SLICE

Ingredients:

Base: 1 cup of dried dates

$\frac{3}{4}$ cups of almonds

1 tablespoon of coconut oil (melted)

Caramel: 1 cup of dried dates

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of coconut oil

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons of unhulled tahini

$\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pure organic maple syrup (adjust to your liking)

1 cup of raw cashews (covered and soaked in water for an hour then rinsed)

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup water

Raw Top Chocolate Layer: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup coconut oil (melted)

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup pure organic maple syrup

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup raw cacao powder

Directions:

Base: Pulse dates, almonds and coconut oil in a food processor until it resembles fine crumbs and sticks together when pressed. Pour mixture into a slice tin (20cm x 20cm) lined with non-toxic greaseproof paper and press it down to form the base. Place it in the freezer

Caramel: Put dates, coconut oil, tahini, maple syrup, cashews and water into a blender and pulse until completely combined and smooth (you may need a little extra water to help blend it but try and keep it to a minimum). Pour caramel mixture on top of the base and return it to the freezer to set

Raw Top Chocolate Layer: Add the coconut oil, maple syrup and cacao to a small saucepan on a really low heat and stir it until it is combined and resembles chocolate sauce (this step should only take a couple of minutes). Spread the chocolate sauce on top of the caramel filing. Note: Make sure the caramel is set before you do this step. Pop it back into the freezer for an hour then remove it from the tin, slice it up and store it in an airtight container in the fridge.



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