

# BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #15 NOVEMBER 2007

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## ABBOT'S REPORT

Dear friends in the Dhamma. It is with much happiness that I greet you. Today I received the completed typed teachings of John D. Hughes entitled “ Preliminary Buddhist Meditation Exercises” that were typed from printed notes by Helen Costas. It has taken two years for Helen to complete this work. We will publish the suitable chapters on our BDDR online and e-dharma websites. I quote the following verse to inspire you to read these great teachings. “If you keep in company with 'nice people', it does not take much effort to be friendly. The real test is found, when one is in frequent association with individuals who are annoying. If you reduce the suffering of the world, you lighten the load of the Bodhisattvas, as well as overcoming anger in yourself.”

I love you all and look forward to seeing you.

~Anita Carter

## 1000 BUDDHA IMAGES

We now have sponsorships for approximately 320 Buddha images to go into the John D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya. We are planning to have an installation ceremony of these images on the celebration of Versak in May 2008.

We have found one style of Buddha image, which may be suitable, which can be viewed at the Centre.

The smaller image will cost \$3, and the larger one will cost \$10.87. If we installed the smaller image around the internal perimeter of the hall there would be about 540 images in one continuous row. Using the larger one it would be about 395 images per row.

## MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007 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

SATURDAYS	MEMBERS' DAY 10.00AM SANGHA MEETING 11.00AM INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM CLASSES
SATURDAY EVENINGS	BUDDHA DHAMMA TEACHINGS BY THE VENERABLE SANGHA AND/OR MEDITATION GUIDED BY ANITA CARTER 8.00PM
24 NOVEMBER	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN 2.00 – 3.00PM
24 NOVEMBER	GENERAL MEETING 5.30 PM
08/12/07	SUMI-E CLASS TAUGHT BY JAN BENNET 2.00 - 4.00PM
9 DECEMBER	BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE
15 -16 DECEMBER	VENERABLE DONDRUP DORJE 2 DAY COURSE PADMASAMBHAVA'S TEACHINGS & OM MANI PADME HUM
25 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY FLOWER STALL
27 – 31 DECEMBER	DECEMBER BHAVANA COURSE

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS 2008

Weekly teachings will start again at Burringa (DRCCC), Glenfern Rd, Upwey during February 2008.

A ten week course will be taught as an introduction to Buddhism for new students and also 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.

Suitable new students will be encouraged to continue learning Buddhism by attending the Saturday morning and Saturday evening Teachings at the Centre.

After the completion of the ten week course Abbot Anita Carter will conduct Sangha Meetings on Wednesday evenings for our experienced students to learn the Dhamma under her guidance.

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## SUMI-E AT THE ARANYA RETREAT CENTRE

Last week we were visited by Nila Chambers who has set up the Aranya Retreat Centre in Northern Queensland. The retreat centre is a homestead set on 17 acres, surrounded by the Daintree forest.

Teachers of different spiritual traditions are welcome to run retreats or individuals can go for personal retreats. There is a meditation room, spiritual library, lounge and veranda area, dining and kitchen surrounded by an acre of gardens.

Many years ago Nila came to our Centre and studied Chan painting with John Hughes and now wishes to run a painting retreat at the Aranya Centre. Sumi-e painter and teacher Jan Bennet has agreed to teach at the Aranya Centre on the 2nd - 4th of May 2008. A minimum of 10 students will attend and there will be approximately 6 hours of painting per day.

## NEW COLOUR BROCHURES

This week we are having some beautiful new brochures printed promoting our Centre and Teaching program. Toby Knox and Frank Carter designed them and they will be printed in colour as a pocket size (2000 ordered) and as an A4 (1000 ordered). Brochures will be ready for collection next Tuesday.

Melba Nielsen has kindly offered to donate \$500 towards the printing costs. Melba has also offered to pay for a new water tank for the Centre to replace the tank next to Suite 4 which has rusted out. Thankyou for your kind help and generosity Melba.

## BOOKS DONATED TO THE LIBRARY

Past member Julian Day visited the Centre last week and has kindly donated approximately 50 Books to our Buddhist Library. He has also given us two framed Buddhist artworks and a framed copy of the Five Reflections on Food. Thank you Julian.



VENERABLE DONDRUP DORJE

## TIBETAN LAMA TO CONDUCT TEACHINGS AT THE CENTRE

Venerable Dondrup Dorje conducts a course at the Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

This is an important opportunity to increase our understanding of the Teachings of the great Buddhist Masters Padmasambhava.

The Teaching Program is as follows:

Saturday 14th December: 2.00pm

### Seven Line Prayer to Guru Rinpoche

Commentary on the single most important prayer in Tibetan Nyingma Buddhist Tradition

Sunday 15th December: 2.00pm

### Meaning of OM MANI PEME HUNG

Teaching given by Guru Rinpoche on the King of all Mantras before his departure from Tibet.

## COMPUTER UPGRADE

Our Internet and E-mail computer PC4 has been upgraded to a Pentium 4 2GB chip with a 40GB Hard Drive. This will make downloading from the Internet and sending and receiving emails quicker. We have also installed Windows 2000 on PC4.

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## SUITE 4

In anticipation of the coming summer, insulation has been installed into the roof of Suite 4 which is currently housing the World Buddhist Radio, the Digitising System and recorded teachings. If the temperature gets too high during the warm weather for the equipment we may also install an air conditioner.

## SUMI-E AND CHAN PROGRAM

A new brochure has been created for the Chan Academy Painting School outlining the Chan and Sumi-e painting program.

Chan Painting taught by Melba Nielsen will run on the last Saturday of each month from 2 pm – 3 pm. Cost is \$20 per class.

Sumi-e Painting taught by Jan Bennet will run on the second Saturday of the month from 2 pm – 4 pm. Cost is \$25 per class.

## BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

We have a sausage sizzle stall booked for the 9th of December at Bunnings Warehouse on Fernreegully Rd, Scoresby. We ran this stall last year and it is a great opportunity to raise funds for our temple.

The stall is always very busy and at times it is hard to keep up, so we need many helpers. We will have a roster for the event so please let Frank know if you are available for a couple of hours to help out.

## MOVING ARCHIVES

On Saturday 24th of November we will be moving boxes of archives stored at David Igracki's parents home in Garfield. Some of the stored items we will take to the tip and the remainder we will move to a large storage shed in Menzies Creek which has been offered to us. We would greatly appreciate some help with this big task. Thankyou.

## METTA PRACTICE

Anita has suggested all Members could benefit greatly by spending the next one month period focusing on their metta practice.

This could be through chanting the metta sutta in Pali and English everyday, doing daily metta meditation using Venerable Mahinda's instructions on CD or sending metta to each person you are speaking with over the next four weeks.

It is important to set yourself short-term practice objectives like this to change your habitual behaviour for the better.

## NEW STAIRS AND DECKING

On Sunday the 25th November we will be installing a new flight of stairs from the end of the back verandah of the house onto the front deck of the meditation hall. At the same time we will redeck the existing back verandah with Merbeau decking.

George Costas has offered to do the work and needs at least two people to help.

## VOLUNTEER EXPO

Last Sunday, 11th November the Shire of Yarra Ranges held a Festival at Lilydale Lake called the Volunteer Expo. This was a showcase of community groups run by volunteers active in the shire area.

Our Centre conducted a stall to let people know who we are and what we offer our community. We used a 4 metre tent and displayed 10 Chan paintings as well as some of our brochures. We had the opportunity to meet local people and give them information about our Centre.