

# BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #27, JUNE-JULY 2009

BUDDHIST DISCUSSION CENTRE (UPWEY) LTD.  
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## ABBOT'S REPORT

At our five day winter bhavana course each year we study the Chan lineage. This year the course was titled "Finding out what is Chan". Students studied their knowledge about what they thought Chan was and then researched to get to the correct meanings. Each of us must find a time, just like nature does, to have our Winter time, to review and renew ourselves in readiness for the active times in our life, just like in nature, the seasons of spring and summer. Chan is about knowing what is your nature and using it to help you with your practice. So the Dhamma practitioner makes a time to retreat, to look inside themselves and review their knowledges to find way of improving their understanding, ways to regenerate their energy and build new energy. Chan painting is one way of doing this.

The Chan exhibition each year will help students do this. Here are the speeches given by Melba Nielsen and myself at the opening of the Chan Exhibition, "Renewal", 7th June 2009 held at Burrinja Jarmbi Gallery, 395 Glenfern Road, Upwey, Victoria 3158.

## ABBOT'S SPEECH - CHAN EXHIBITION

A warm welcome to all of you here today. To Our Chan Academy painting Teachers, Melba Nielsen and Jan Bennett, I pay my respect to you, Thank you for holding our painting lineages of Chan and Sumie. To Helen Costas, Chan Academy Manager, thank you for your devotion and effort in making this exhibition happen.

I acknowledge our original Chan and Sumi-e Teachers, the late Master John D Hughes and the late Master Andre Sollier.

One aim of the Chan Academy is to provide developmental programs in the Chan (Zen) and Sumi-e meditation tradition of painting and

## 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
5 JULY	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
11 JULY	SUMI-E CLASS, 2:00-4:00PM (SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH)
25 JULY SATURDAY	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN, 10.00AM
25 JULY SATURDAY	GENERAL MEETING, 2:00PM
2 AUGUST	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
15 AUGUST	DIRECTORS MEETING 1:00PM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2:00PM



EXHIBITION OPENING: JULIAN BAMFORD, FRANK CARTER, MELBA NIELSEN, RANI HUGHES AND ANITA CARTER.

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EXHIBITION OPENING: SCENE SET UP IN THE ROOM USED FOR DEMONSTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

Calligraphy within an Australian multicultural context.

The exhibition we are opening today is evidence that we are realising this aim.

We offer this exhibition to you, as a demonstration of what can be achieved through the art of Chan and Sumie. To suggest to you a way of renewing yourself .....

All things are impermanent.....are in a cycle of birth, existence and passing away...all things are born, are sustained, are reduced and then pass away....this message from the great Sage, The Buddha Shakyamuni.....underlies our exhibition's theme of “renewal”...

The Chan student aspires to paint in meditation.... learns to arrive at the present moment... through the foundation practices of mindfulness, quietening the mind and finally finds clarity, peace and the arising of wisdom.

Each moment we experience, arises, exists then fades away...this is our life. By being in the present and letting go of past events...we can renew.

This action of being in the present is renewal... it allows ones mind to regenerate its strength, to be new with each new moment, it offers us the possibility of restoring our mental vigour, our physical strength... to refresh...to begin again.....

So ... we paint... one stroke...one stroke...one stroke with perfect mindfulness... fully in the present.....egoless....bursting with energy and restrained by truth... Thankyou.

## CHAN EXHIBITION - SPEECH BY MELBA NIELSEN

I'd like to welcome you all here today, to our second exhibition for the 4 seasons Chan Academy - way of the brush!

The Exhibition is called “renewal” as summer 2009 for Victoria has been devastating for our forests, Human beings and bush animals. A year where loss has been felt at its most intense in the fires.

If we are lulled into a sense of Urban Complacency and the idle chatter of self talk, we don't look after ourselves, our behaviour and our environment.

This can have devastating results in our lives and I believe we are linked more than we realise to these events.

And yet, just as nature grows and renews, so does the Chan Painter, the Chan gardener, the Chan cook and the Chan worker, we practice the way of Chan in everyday life.

Just as is the Australian bush, we are made up of the 4 elements; Earth, fire, water and air. Our bodies are around 65% water, and so on. We are an intrinsic part of the natural landscape, but have more-intellect, free will and a moral conscience. It is up to us what we do with these assets and we can transform loss into positive causes to make a good life.

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Just as the parrot gets nectar from the blossoming eucalyptus flower, we can get sustenance from right action; to apply ethics to our life and to take charge of our life. By taking charge, by being mindful, we are then not slaves to our habitual, egocentric minds - the minds that perpetuate ignorance.

This can be hard work, so it is essential that we enjoy ourselves also - each in spite of our "self". Like P.J. O'Rourke I'm wary of the "pleasure police" and take charge of my own enjoyment. That is why I paint Chan Paintings. That is why I am perpetually "in love"! The way of the brush is taught through the six Perfections; generosity, morality, patience, energy, equanimity and wisdom. Just as the parrot gets dusted with pollen, allowing growth to blossom - creating beauty nurtures us and our own personal environment.

This exhibition is about gold - the gold of Australian wattle in Spring's renewal. These Chan paintings are a visual representation of Chan or Zen Buddhist practice in an Australian context.

My own loss in 2009 has left me happy and more fulfilled than I have ever been in my life. My own personal renewal.

Here I'd like to thank my medical carers at Maroondah Hospital, our Founder and creator of the Way of the Brush, the late John Hughes, our Teachers Anita and Frank Carter of the Chan Academy Australia at Upwey and friends and colleagues who help me – especially Helen, the organizer of our exhibition, Thank you Helen. Thank you Peter, Pennie, George, Adam, Rani – the list goes on. They are my friends and my human brush, ink, ink stone and paper.

To close I'd like to again quote W.B Yeats;

“Though you have the will of the wild birds, know that your hair was wound and bound around the moon and the stars.” Thank You.



EXHIBITION OPENING: CR. SAMANTHA DUNN, FRANK CARTER AND ANITA CARTER.

## CHAN EXHIBITION

Chan Academy Australia held its second annual Chan Painting exhibition at Burrinja in the Jarmbi Gallery, from 3 June to the 23 June.

It was our great fortune that Melba was well enough to produce another series of masterpieces.

Jan Bennet contributed his masterpieces to the exhibition again. Student work was also exhibited.

Seventeen paintings were sold.

We offer a very sincere thank you to all those who made this exhibition possible.

## VICTORIAN UN DAY FOR VESAK 2009

United Nations Day for Vesak 2009 was held at the Melbourne Town Hall on the 9 May. This event was coordinated by an Organising Committee with over 40 enthusiastic volunteers from many temples and societies around Melbourne.

This day was a harmonious celebration and remembrance of the Buddha's Birth,

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## Enlightenment and Passing into Parinibbana.

There were over sixty Monks and Nuns representing many traditions from Temples across Victoria in attendance.

Messages were read from the Governor of Victoria, the Prime Minister, the Premier of Victoria and HE Phan Wannamethee, President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. Speeches from our honoured VIPs included Ms Elizabeth Drozd, Commissioner for the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Councilor Cathy Oke, City of Melbourne, Mark Coffee, National Vice President, United Nations Association of Australia and Professor Des Bell, Parliament of World Religions Melbourne 2009.

Thank you to our United Nations Day of Vesak 2009 sponsors the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the City of Melbourne and Clear Systems - Lighting and Sound.

Please enjoy photos from the day at [www.naleenspace.com](http://www.naleenspace.com) as well as at our site at [www.buddhaview.org](http://www.buddhaview.org)

## BUDDHA'S DAY AND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL 2009

The 14th Buddha's Day, Multicultural Festival and the annual World Peace Blessing Ceremony, was held at Federation Square, Melbourne on Sunday 17 May. The Venerable Sangha, Dignitaries, Honoured Guests, volunteers and hundreds of visitors gathered to celebrate. This event was a great blessing for Melbourne and Victoria.

Venerable Sangha guided chanting of; the Triple Gem refuge, Na Mo Sakyamuni Buddha three times, the Heart Sutra in English, prayers and wishes for World Peace. Dignitaries participated in the Bathing the Buddha. Venerable Yi Lai guided the Transfer of Merits.

The Venerable Yi Lai, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan

Australia-Oceania, Nan Tien Temple NSW and Chung Tian Temple Queensland officially opened and welcomed all present to the 2009 Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival.

We invite and encourage you to put Buddha's Day 2010 in your diary and make it a must to go along and enjoy the colour and blessings of this great Buddhist event.

Please enjoy photos of Buddha's Day on our website at [www.buddhaview.org](http://www.buddhaview.org)

## OFFICIAL OPENING - NEW MAIN SHRINE AT YUN TANG TEMPLE AUSTRALIA INC.

The Most Venerable Master Ru Sun welcomed Venerable Sangha, Honoured Guests and Lay Devotees to Yun Yang Temple in Narre Warren North on the morning of the 2 May for the Official Opening of the Main Shrine.

A highlight of the day was the Grand Parade from the Heavenly Kings Hall up to the new Shrine Building which was led by two traditional Lion dancers and drummers from the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne.

Our President Julian Bamford, Director Adam Richards and Member's Trish Allen, Leonie Scott, Pennie White and daughter Bodhi represented our Abbot and Temple for this important event.

View photos of the official opening celebrations at [www.buddhaview.org.au](http://www.buddhaview.org.au)

Visit <http://www.yunyangtemple.org.au/> and click on World Wide Centre – Local Gallery to see more photos of the Opening, the Venerable Sangha who attended and the Shrine building construction.

## KHEN RINPOCHE LOBZANG TSETAN TEACHINGS

Our international Member Michelle Hill attended the Venerable Khen Rinpoche Geshe Kachen Lobzang Tsetan teaching at Agape International

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Spiritual Centre in Culver City LA on April 26 2009.

He ran a workshop on "How to live with inner peace without being affected by the outside world"

He spoke about cherishing others and how doing so brings about compassion and joy among other qualities.

In 2005 Khen Rinpoche was appointed by HH 14th Dalai Lama to be Head abbot of Tashi Lunpo Monastery in Southern India. He has been teaching in the US for over 15 years. To read about Khen Rinpoche go to [www.siddharthaschool.org](http://www.siddharthaschool.org) or [www.stringsfortibet.com](http://www.stringsfortibet.com)

## WINTER FIVE DAY BHAVANA COURSE

A winter five day Bhavana Course was conducted by our Abbot Anita Carter at the Centre from 5 June to 9 June. As part of the course students learned about the Orders of Knowledge as was taught by John D. Hughes - 1st order statement is superficial, only describing a view or action without any meaning of why, or who. 2nd order contains further information of who or how, when and where. 3rd order adds why and often the result of the action or view, and so on. The orders of knowledge continue into 4th, 5th and 6th orders at which university level of learning is achieved through broadening the view with research statistics and the formulation of theories and philosophies. 7th order of knowledge is used in law, for the common good for fairness to all, equality etc.

Buddha knowledges go on to 12th order knowledge, and include morality, generosity, the law of cause and effect. To understand information at a high order of knowledge ought to be our aim. This is important to make the right causes if one wishes to recall this data in our next life.

Stop using first order thinking. So, you can say a simple sentence like "washing the dishes only", at

1st, 2nd or 3rd order, that is using a 1st, 2nd or 3rd order mind. If it is said at 3rd order, then the 1st and 2nd order minds hearing it will get the information at 1st and 2nd order, however minds at 3rd order would also understand.

S1 (1st order): operating on instructions, a task doer and task master

S2 (2nd order): operating on written information

S3 (3rd order): operating on a plan

S4 (4th order): operating within a team with a leader

S5 (5th order): project teams - all members of the team having all the information

Develop higher orders of knowledge minds so you can continue to learn and go beyond your current level of knowledges.

Building brighter and higher minds is what practicing Buddha Dhamma does. This allows you to see the why behind the instructions and practice at deeper levels.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewal letters are currently being sent out to all members, we would appreciate the return of the membership forms by the Annual General Meeting on the 15 August 2009 or the latest by the 30 August 2009. Thank you

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Buddhist Discussion Centre Upwey, to be held on the 15 August 2009 at 2pm at 33 Brooking street, Upwey, Victoria 3158. Your presence is highly regarded and welcomed.

## OFFICE BEARER NOMINATIONS

The office bearer nominations for the following positions have been made.

Director: Anita Carter

Director: Frank Carter

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Director: Helen Costas  
Director: Peter Marshall  
Director: Adam Richards  
President: Julian Bamford  
Treasurer: Adam Richards  
Vice-President Corporate Governance & Reporting (CGR): Anita Carter  
Vice-President International Dhamma Activities (IDA): Julian Bamford  
Vice-President Local Area Planning & Asset Management (LAPAM): Frank Carter  
Assistant Manager, Local Area Planning & Asset Management (LAPAM): Adam Richards  
Executive Producer Buddhist Hour: Frank Carter  
Websites Manager: Evelin Martin  
Executive Producer World Buddhist Radio: Frank Carter  
Chan Academy Manager: Helen Costas  
Editor Buddha Dhyana Dana Review: Pennie White  
Buddhist Hour Assistant Producer: Daniel White  
Editor Brooking Street Bulletin: Pennie White  
IT Support Manager: Vladimir Karnovic  
Assistant Secretary: Sally Kelly  
Event Catering Manager: Jakkie Graham  
Member's Day Catering Manager: Tanya Poynton

## MOTHERS DAY FLOWER STALL

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 we ran a Mother's Day Flower Stall on Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby. The fundraiser was a great success. Through the day it became obvious that we would not be able to sell all the flowers we had bought from our site so at about mid day it was decided to start a second stall from our original site on Boronia Road Wantirna.

As a result 212 out of 215 bunches were sold between the two sites which resulted into \$1896.80 profit, nearly \$100 over our target. The time and energy that the volunteers offered was noticed and greatly appreciated. Thank you all members who

were able to contribute to this event.

## CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL

We are looking for people to offer knitted items such as scarves, beanies or any other items to be sold at the market. Please contact Sue for further information.

## NEW PATH AROUND STUPA

These winter months are being used to enhance our garden and make improvements, such as fire safety. We have recently completed building a stone path around the Stupa, and we invite Members and Friends to circumambulate the stupa regularly to generate blessings for your self.



MEMBERS PREPARING TO BUILD THE NEW PATH: PETER MARSHALL, SUE GOODES, JULIAN BAMFORD, FRANK CARTER, ANITA CARTER, ADAM RICHARDS AND TRISH ALLEN