

BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #35, JANUARY 2011



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

Lifetimes of Learning the Buddha Dhamma

I wish to see all of us stabilise this year to come to a sustainable level of practice. Practice that will move us in an ever increasing pattern of learning to come to wisdom and merit accumulation (as our mind develops we make more merit doing the same things), to make sure we die brighter than when we were born, connecting us to the Buddha Dhamma powerfully enough to continue in our current and future lives.

Welcome to 2011...

May we all generate the Enlightenment Factor of Joy...through the knowledge of our own death. How can we do this? We start by knowing that we will one day die... we should contemplate and consider this truth every single day of this year with the intention of generating a life plan that will make the most of what we have to do, what we want.

We must stop being a victim and become proactive human beings... know what we want to achieve this life... it may be 20 - 30 things... maybe we can order our lives into 4 - 8 parts with goals in each area.

Study the book "*Peaceful Death, Joyful Rebirth, A Tibetan Buddhist Guidebook*" by Tulku Thondup, to help us understand what happens at death and get our mind in order before death comes.

Through doing this we will come to joy.

This year we are designing systems to make it easier for our Members to know what is happening and what needs to be done. A *To Do List* is being created that states all the activities that need to be done on a day by day basis. Members will be emailed and can respond by recording what tasks they will do over the year. It allows everyone time to plan their life activities well in advance.

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
1 JANUARY	INTRODUCTION AND BAMBOO CLASS WITH PENNIE WHITE 9:30-10:30AM
9 JANUARY	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
8 JANUARY	THE WAY OF THE BRUSH WITH ANITA CARTER 9:30-10:30AM
15 JANUARY	BEGINNERS SUMI-E CLASS WITH JULIAN BAMFORD 9.30AM-10.30AM
22 JANUARY	BEGINNERS SUMI-E CLASS WITH JULIAN BAMFORD 9:30AM-10:30AM
29 JANUARY	CHAN CLASS TAUGHT BY MELBA NIELSEN 11.00AM-12 NOON
29 JANUARY	GENERAL MEETING 2:00-2:30PM

We are no longer going to run an 11am Saturday morning class as there is no need for it at this stage.

We will continue to hold the Wednesday night Prajna Paramita classes and Saturday night Meditation Classes. Merit making activities will continue throughout the week with Saturday mornings dedicated to merit making and Chan classes. The Chan classes will continue to begin at 9:30am except for Melba's class, which will start at 11:00am.

"All conditioned phenomena,
Are like dreams, illusions, bubbles, shadows,
Like dew drops and a lightning flash,
Contemplate them thus...." from the "*Diamond Cutter*".

All my love, Anita

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VIETNAMESE TEMPLE VISITS 2011

We now have confirmed dates for the visits of the two main Vietnamese Temples as follows:

1. Phat Quang Temple (Footscray) Sunday the 30 January 2 - 3.00pm. (Approx. 500 persons)
2. Hoa Nghiem Temple (Springvale) Saturday the 12 February at about 3.00pm. (Approx. 500 persons)

Please kindly put these dates into your diary, as we need the help of many of our Members on that day. If you have friends or relatives you would like to invite to help us on these days please invite them. You will need to prepare them by explaining the nature of the event and what how we prepare for it and serve our guests.

SOGYAL RINPOCHE PUBLIC TALK

Sogyal Rinpoche, author of the highly acclaimed, *"The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying"* will give a public talk at the Collingwood Town Hall on Friday 18 February 2011.

For further information go to

www.rigpa.com.au/tour/melbourne/index.html

BUDDHA VIHARA TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

Member Kate Ryan visited Venerable Viriananda on 1 January 2011 the Buddha Vihara Temple, 939 Canterbury Road Box Hill 3128. She reports that there will be two monks visiting from 28 January.

Before midnight on 2 February there will be a ceremony/celebration at the Temple going into 3 February which is officially the start of the Chinese New Year. It will be The Year of the Rabbit.

There will also be a Chinese New Year fundraising lunch on Sunday 6 Feb at 12 noon at Allan House - Asian and Vietnamese Restaurant, 36 Main street, Greensborough. Tel 9435 5265. The cost of the ticket for the banquet lunch is \$45, and there are door prizes and raffles. Tickets are available from

the Buddha Vihara Temple 03 9899 0638.

UN DAY OF VESAK - 21 MAY 2011

The planning for the United Nations Day of Vesak 2011 is under way. Anita, Frank and Simon attended the first committee meeting for the event at Wat Buddharangsi Temple in Springvale.

The date of the event at Melbourne Town Hall is booked for Saturday the 21 May. Please put this date in your diary.

The Vesak 2011 is historic for the world-wide Buddhist community being the 2600th anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment. We have been given a grant of \$1100 by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

Ajarn Brahm has been invited to give a Dhamma talk to be scheduled on the morning of the event and early indications are that he will likely attend. The idea of having a procession along Swanston St of Temples carrying lanterns to the Melbourne Town Hall is also being considered.

GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 2011

Members are all requested to attend the next General Committee Meeting on the 29 January when the new planning schedule will be presented and explained. The schedule will list the centre activities which need to be done day by day, month by month so all Members can quickly see exactly what is needed and then put their name against what they wish to do for that, week or month.

This system is a transparent method to enable everybody to contribute to looking after the centre and will be very accessible to assist Members to plan their own merit making. The General Meeting is an ideal time for us all to see and learn about this new centre development. Thank you Peter and Anita for your work in introducing and preparing the planning schedule.

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WFB CONFERENCE PHOTOS

The 60th Anniversary and The 25th General Conference of The World Fellowship of Buddhists (The WFB), The 16th General Conference of The World Fellowship of Buddhists Youth (The WFBY) and the 8th Meeting of The World Buddhist University-Council (The WBU) took place on 13 to 18 November B.E. 2553 (2010) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Anita Carter, Frank Carter, Simon Kearney, Sally Kelly and Pennie White represented our centre.

To see photos of the conference go to:

<http://www.bddronline.net.au/bddr20no2/bddr20no2.html>

COMMEMORATION OF MASTER JOHN HUGHES' PASSING AWAY

On the 27 November, a Puja was held to commemorate the 7th year since the passing away of Master John D. Hughes. The Vajrasattva Puja was lead by Anita Carter. Members shared recollections of teachings given by Master John D. Hughes.

FIVE DAY CHRISTMAS BHAVANA COURSE

The Five Day Christmas Bhavana Course was held from 27 to 31 December 2010. The teachings were based on the "*Peaceful Death, Joyful Rebirth, A Tibetan Buddhist Guidebook*" by Tulku Thondup. Thank you to Anita and Frank Carter for teaching and facilitating this course. The course concluded with a New Year's Eve party, followed by a Bell Puja offering.

CHRISTMAS DAY FLOWER STALL

A successful Christmas Day Flower Stall was held on 25 December 2010 raising \$482.75 for the centre and \$47.55 for the Bangladesh Orphanage.

The flower stall was managed by Adam, and set up by both Adam and Simon. Flowers were sold by Frank, Adam, Melba, Linda, Kate and Peter. The

money raised was counted by Pennie and Bodhi.

Well done to all members involved!

DANA

All members and friends are encouraged to collect and place any receipts for items purchased for our Temple into the Centre's dana box.

Evelin will be entering the receipts into our accounting systems, so that we can claim GST. We will also enter receipts for items that do not have GST, such as food; this enables us to have a record of the dana offered to the centre.

All you need to do is put your receipts into the box, you do not have to write your name on it as it will not be recorded in the accounting, but if you do add your name, the Devas and Devatas may read it and you can receive some additional blessings for your meritorious actions because they know where it comes from.

CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL

Members raised \$193.75 at the Camberwell Market stall held on 5 December 2010 and \$185 at the Camberwell Market stall held on the 9th of February. In addition, \$206.00 was raised for the International Brotherhood Mission Orphanage in India from the raffle tickets sold on these two stalls and \$35 in donations. \$103.05 was raised for the Bangladesh Orphanage from the donation stand. Thanks to Simon, David, Julian, Michelle, Frank, Sue and Kate for contributing to the success of this fundraiser.

If you would like to donate anything before the next market stall to be held on Sunday 6 February please contact Sue Goodes.

NO VALENTINE'S DAY STALL 2011

It has been decided that we will not conduct a Valentines Day flower stall this year because it would fall on the Monday following the Hoa Nghiem temple visit on the 12 February.

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PHOTO: VISIT TO THE NOBBIES 1/1/11, ANITA AND FRANK CARTER

VISIT TO THE NOBBIES 1/1/11

Members painted "The Nobbies" at Phillip Island on 1 January 2011. The paintings were an offering to the Dragon King. They can be viewed at <http://www.chanacademy.org.au/index.html>.



PHOTO: VISIT TO THE NOBBIES 1/1/11, MELBA NIELSEN AND PENNIE WHITE

WEBSITE NEWS

Pennie and Evelin are working on the creation of our new Chan Academy website. In our last General Meeting it was decided to archive our website www.buyresolved.com.au soon, because we are now building the new website for the Chan Academy. It has been archived to <http://www.chanacademy.org.au/buyresolved/index.html>

MEMBERS' NEWS

Evelin Martin has purchased a house in Belgrave, so that she can live close to our Temple. She has moved into her new house on the 3 December with her family, and everyone is well and happy!

Evelin has taken on the role of managing the accounts for our Centre using MYOB and is being trained by Frank and his accountant Andrew.



PHOTO: VISIT TO THE NOBBIES 1/1/11, EVELIN MARTIN

BULLETIN ARTICLES

If you would like to contribute to the bulletin please email your articles to Pennie by the 20th of each month. We have begun a style guide. Please email Pennie for a draft copy.