

BROOKING STREET BULLETIN

ISSUE #37, MARCH 2011



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

Actually this Abbot's Report is written by Frank on behalf of our dear Anita who is preparing for her visit to Thailand to be presented with the Outstanding Women in Buddhism Award for 2011 along with three other recipients.

So you may ask yourself "How does she do it!?" We see Anita's world's are beyond being busy. They are frequently highly demanding and complex yet, Anita takes giant strides in her roles as Mother, Abbot, Director of Nursing, good friend, wife, daughter and shower of the Way.

It comes from many qualities and merits Anita has developed within herself to offer strongly to others as all these roles are for her, worlds of giving, helping and guiding.

Through knowing the Buddha Dhamma Anita can see her own and others true position in Samsara and from that clear vision comes a strong sense of urgency that I have seen in great Dhamma practitioners. John had a most powerful sense of urgency.

It is taught by Buddha that a powerful antidote to laziness is a sense of urgency and that the outcome of a sense of urgency is the arising of energy. A true cause of positive energy is a sense of urgency for doing the beneficial things.

We congratulate Anita on being honoured with this award. It is given in recognition, and to encourage others, that it is possible to live an outstanding life.

Our centre is designed to help and allow us to become outstanding in our worlds too, and we can do it! (if we develop a sense of urgency)

All my love, on behalf of Anita

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
5 MARCH	INTRODUCTION AND BAMBOO CLASS WITH PENNIE WHITE 9:30-10:30AM GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
6 MARCH	CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL
12 MARCH	BEGINNERS CHAN WITH SIMON KEARNEY 9:30-10:30AM
19 MARCH	BEGINNERS SUMI-E CLASS WITH JULIAN BAMFORD 9.30AM-10.30AM
26 MARCH	BEGINNERS SUMI-E CLASS WITH JULIAN BAMFORD 11.00AM-12 NOON
26 MARCH	GENERAL MEETING 2:00-2:30PM

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUDDHISM AWARD

Our Members' congratulate Anita Carter in having being chosen for an Outstanding Woman in Buddhism Award by an international committee of scholars and Buddhist monastics. Anita will be honored at an awards ceremony in recognition of the United Nations International Women's Day 2011.

Anita will attend the event on 4 March at the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women Bangkok, Thailand. Trish Allen will accompany Anita. Thank you Trish.

Anita will also attend one day of the seminar to follow at the International Women's Meditation Center in Rayong on the weekend of 5-6 March.

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VIETNAMESE TEMPLE VISITS 2011

Approximately 900 Vietnamese visitors came to our centre on the weekend of 12-13 February as part of their yearly pilgrimage. On 12 February the Hoa Nghiem Temple (Springvale) community visited. On 13 February the Phat Quang Temple (Footscray) community visited. We are happy to welcome and celebrate the New Year with our visitors.



PHOTO: HOA NGHIEM TEMPLE (SPRINGVALE) VISIT ON 12 FEBRUARY



PHOTO: OUR MEMBERS ON 12 FEBRUARY



PHOTO: VISITORS FROM PHAT QUANG TEMPLE (FOOTSCRAY) 13 FEBRUARY



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PHOTO: OUR MEMBERS ON 13 FEBRUARY

THE FIVE 'DISASTERS'

Venerable Sayadaw U Pandita returned to our Centre to lead the evening meditation on Saturday the 19 February. He led ten of us through a meditation focussing on mindfulness and on observing and labelling our thoughts, distractions and physical feelings.

The Venerable then gave one of his beautiful Dhamma talks. In this talk he discussed the five personal 'disasters' or losses that a human being can experience in their lives. These include; losing our property, losing our loved ones, losing our health, losing our moral principles and losing our right view. The first three are very impermanent disasters that can usually be overcome quite easily. We can always work to rebuild or buy more property, we mourn our loved ones but we can keep on loving them after they have gone, and when we are sick we can usually be cured with medicines. The last two disasters however, are more significant. When we lose our moral principles and our right view there are longer lasting effects. We tend not to keep our precepts when we act with an incorrect understanding of how things really are and this will cause us to plant many negative kammic seeds that will stay with us for lifetimes.

Out of the five disasters, keeping our moral principles and keeping right view are the only ones that we have any control and influence over. This is why we should take care to keep our precepts and to be mindful that we are acting with right view, as there is nobody else who can do this for us.

It was a very inspiring talk and I am very thankful that I was able to be there to experience it.

May you all be well and happy.

Ashley Robinson

UN DAY OF VESAK

The United Nations Day of Vesak 2011 will be held on 21 May at the Melbourne Town Hall.

The United Nations Day of Vesak Fundraising Dinner will held on Saturday the 2nd of April at 6.30pm at Quang Minh Temple, Braybrook.

Tickets are \$30 each. We would like to book 2 tables if possible for 20 persons. Please confirm your attendance with Frank ASAP.

FIVE DAY BHAVANA COURSE

The next Five Day Bhavana Course will be held from 22 April to 26 April 2011.

WHEEL DAY

Member Kate Ryan has informed us that in the Tibetan calendar a Wheel Day is when the effects of positive or negative actions is multiplied 10 million times. This is an ideal day for practice and to be especially mindful. The next Wheel Day is on Saturday 19 March.

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DONATION TO IBM INDIA ORPHANAGE

In the next few days we will be transferring our offering of \$907 to Venerable Achariya Karuna Shastri for the International Brotherhood Mission children's orphanage.

The moneys were raised as a result of Anita's wish to offer our support to the orphanage and the efforts of our Members who conducted and supported a three month raffle, and more recently by Sally who invited her friends and their friends to her home for exquisite lunches as a way of raising funds for the orphanage. Over a four week period Sally raised \$500 for which we offer our thanks and acclamation. Well done!

Our offerings to the IBM orphanage does not reduce our contributions to the Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh for which we have ongoing fundraising from the Camberwell market stall Bangladesh stand, donations stands at Ishka stores and Melba who generously makes a monthly contribution to the orphanage. Thank you.

CAMBERWELL MARKET STALL

On 6 February 2011, the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. held our monthly fundraiser at the Camberwell Market.

Our team for the day was David, Julian, Michelle Sue, Simon and Frank. Their combined efforts for the day raised \$166.70 for the BDC(U) Ltd. and \$13.95 for the Bangladesh Orphanage.

Thank you also to the team who packed the van in the rain the night before; Sally, Sue, Frank and Simon.

On behalf of the members thank you to all who helped with the success of this fundraiser.

If you would like to donate anything before the next market stall (held first Sunday of the month) please contact Sue Goodes.

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE FUNDRAISER

On Sunday 17 July we are running a Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunnings Scoresby, 1467 Ferntree Gully Road, from 9am to 4.00pm.

We need lots of helping hands and bright smiles. It is a great opportunity to make lots of merit and is really fun day. It is a chance to build harmony working with each other and make vast causes for good health and long life.

For those who have helped on the sausage sizzle in past years you will know the near constant flow of people from early morning until late afternoon. If you're new please join in too as this is a fun day.

Help is needed on the day, setting up, cooking and serving food, collecting money, as well as purchasing food and supplies and getting things ready in the days prior, all with a big dose of ardour on top.

We'd love to better last year's great result; 60 plus kilograms of sausages, that's about 800 sausages, along with drink sales raising \$1120 after costs for running and maintaining our Centre and all the projects we run and support each year.

Please put this day in your diary. Julian is Coordinating the event this year and will be in touch over coming weeks to tell you more, seek your help and get the event team roster organised. See you at the sizzle - Julian

MEMBERS' NEWS

Melba Nielsen will travel to Tasmania on 26 March for a reunion with her family including seven of her brothers and sisters. We wish her well for her trip.

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.