

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue 41, July 2011



Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
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President's Message

We wish a warm welcome home to Anita, our Abbot, our Teacher and our Kalyanamita friend.

It was delightful to hear, news of Anita's travels with her family over the past weeks, from Lourdes and the Pyrenees Mountains, to London on a double Decker bus and Regent Street; from Heathrow Airport to Turkey and Istanbul. Welcome home Anita.

Thank you to everyone who helped with looking after our Temple during Anita's absence by keeping our programs going, Chan and Prajnaparamitta classes, the Buddhist Hour, regular chanting in the hall, Camberwell market, cleaning and shopping, preparing meals, keeping the fire stoked and alight, making offerings and our Saturday night meditation classes. Thank you everyone.

Thank you also to our Members who helped move the John D. Hughes image, from the dining hall to its new location in the John D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya. It looks as if it has always been there. This meritorious achievement is a blessing to our Members. May our temple operate for the next five hundred years!

Thank you to everyone for helping with the many tasks involved in this most auspicious project: preparing the new location next to the main altar, for cleaning the clothes, sewing them back on, making offerings and lifting and carrying the image. It took six of us. Thank you also to all the members, past and present that helped to create the image.

We have deep gratitude for our Founder: John D Hughes.

With metta in the Dhamma,

Julian Bamford

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
2 July	Introduction and Bamboo Class with Simon Kearney 9:30-10:30am
3 July	Camberwell Market Stall
9 July	The Way of The Brush With Anita Carter 9:30-10:30am
16 July	Beginners Sumi-e Class with Julian Bamford 9:30-10:30am
17 July	Bunning's Sausage Sizzle 9:00am to 4:00pm
23 July	Chan Class with Melba Nielsen 11.00am-12 noon
30 July	Monthly General Meeting, 3:30pm

UN Vesak Acknowledgement from the World Fellowship of Buddhists

Dear United Nations Day of Vesak Sangha & Organising Committee Members,

Please find below the comments of appreciation received from Mr Phallop Thaiarry, Secretary General of the World Fellowship of Buddhists who was our honoured guest at our UN Vesak Day commemoration.

"I must ask you to congratulate all WFB Regional Centres and organisers concerned regarding the Victorian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak in Melbourne, it was a most commendable success and will greatly strengthen and unite the Buddhists communities, while inspiring many others elsewhere. I am sure that this auspicious observance will continue to grow and play an important role in the propagation of Buddhism and the support of likeminded

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organisations throughout Australia. I proffer no criticisms and extend my sincere wishes that the occasion will in due course develop and receive the prominence that it so deserves in the Buddhist calendar".

Three Day Chan Bhavana Course

A three Day Chan Bhavana Course was held at the centre over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, from Saturday 11 June to Monday 13 June 2011. The theme for the course was 'Joyful Effort' taught by Chan Teacher Melba Nielson.

Chan Master Melba Nielson led the Way of the Brush class between 11:00am and 1:00pm each day. Melba instructed us in Chan Painting, Flower Meditation, Ink Meditation and Presentation Mounting.

On the first day members requested to be taught Chan mind. Melba informed students that the essence of Chan was mindfulness. Members were taught a short two-minute meditation that involved gazing at a flower and watching the subsequent thoughts, sounds and feelings that arose in the mind. The intention of this meditation is to develop one's ability to let phenomena arise and fall without grabbing and grasping. The next meditation students were guided through was the mixing of the ink. As with looking at the flower, the aim is to 'not touch' the thoughts that arise and to keep one's mind and awareness on the body while making the ink that will be used to paint with. Melba told the students to mix ink like a sick patient and to paint like a lioness defending her cubs.

The subjects painted during the course were bamboo, mountains, rocks and orchids. Melba demonstrated how the four treasures (the brush, paper, ink and ink stone) work together to create the painting. She taught that for a student to access the Chan mind, one has to let go and have no concern for what ends up on the paper.

Melba encouraged her students to observe closely the mind's behavior while painting. Melba was a supportive and inspirational teacher. We thank Melba for her kindness and skill in teaching Chan to the students through the Way of the Brush. Melba was very happy to help us and offered her continued support to the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. All students received great benefit from the class.



Photo: Sally Kelly painting at the three day course

Part of each afternoon was spent preparing to move the image of our founder John D. Hughes from the main house to the John D Hughes Dhamma Cetiya Meditation Hall and Library. This shift was an excellent exercise in mindfulness, and we were very happy to have transferred John's image in one piece.

On Saturday afternoon, we were fortunate to have a Vietnamese monk from St Albans, accompanied by five laypersons, visit the Centre to have tea and chant in our hall.

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

On Sunday 17 July, we are running a Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunning's Scoresby, 1467 Ferntree Gully Road, from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Please contact Julian Bamford on (0400) 267 330 to place your name on the event roster.

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Photo: Some of our Members who helped relocate the John D. Hughes Image into the Meditation Hall.

Master John D Hughes Image Relocation

On Monday 13 June, at 2:30pm, students attending the three-day Chan Bhavana course assembled together in the dining room to move the John Hughes life size image from Anita's house into the Meditation hall.

Preparation for the move had begun several days before with chanting and offerings being made by all. The image, which is made with steel rods, concrete and plaster, had to be separated from the steel rods which were set in concrete in the ground under the house by Adam. A concrete platform and lotus leaf surround, which was placed under the image as a moon disc, was also removed. This was cleaned and repainted by Tanya and Romy.

The image weighs about 100 kg and took Adam, Sally, Simon, Romy, Julian and Frank together to successfully lift and move the image into the hall. The clothes, which had been washed and dry cleaned, were then sewn back onto the image by Melba, Romy and Sally.

New holes were drilled into the floor of the hall to

the left of the main altar. Finally at about 5.00pm the image was placed in its new home.

Many merits flowed from placing this tantric image of our Founder into the hall. Teachers and students of our Centre will benefit for many years to come. They will be able to make offerings, pay respect and make requests to Master John Hughes image and altar, which is now accessible to all.

Anita sent her heartfelt and deep gratitude for the effort made to safely move the John Hughes image to its new home. Well done all!

Camberwell Market Stall Report

Our monthly fundraising stall held at Camberwell Rotary Market on Sunday 5 June generated \$284.10 in sales and a net income of \$234.10 after deduction of the \$55 site fee (incl. GST). Dana received for Dhammarajika Orphanage totalled \$55.80, which included donations from the Mothers' Day flower stall.

Thank you to each of our donors for donating many goods for this stall, in particular to Mr and Mrs Ryan. Thank you to Frank Carter for generously providing his van each month to carry the goods and equipment needed. Thank you to our early morning setup team David Ley and Julian Bamford for braving the cold and our second shift, Adam Richards and Sue Goodes with help from Kate Goodes, who packed up. Finally, thank you to Camberwell Rotary Club and to all our visitors and those who made purchases and donations.

May our fundraising projects be successful.

May our fundraising income increase with ease.

If you, family or friends have something you do not want to throw out but do not need to keep, this market may turn one person's junk into another's treasure. Please see Sue Goodes if you have items to donate.

