

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #60, March 2014



Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd.
A.C.N. 005 701 806 A.B.N. 42 611 496 488
33 Brooking Street, Upwey, Victoria 3158
Phone / fax – 03 9754 3334

email – chanacademy@bdcu.org.au web – www.bdcu.org.au



Photograph: Marble Shakyamuni Buddha image at the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey). Photograph by Claire Ransome.

Marble Shakyamuni Buddha Image

During the 2014 Vietnamese New Year visit to our Centre, Venerable Thich Thien Tam advised that our white Buddha image is a Shakyamuni Buddha made out of one single piece of white rock, which comes from Marble Mountain in Da Nung in Vietnam.

Important Dates

Every Saturday	Members' Day 11am-11pm Merit Making and Classes
Every Saturday	Essential Buddha Dhamma Teachings 2pm-4pm
Every Saturday	Buddhist Meditation Class 8pm-9:30pm
Every Sunday	Buddhist Hour live on 3MDR 97.1fm 4pm-5pm
Every Thursday	Dakini Class for female students 8pm-10pm
Last Saturday of each month	Ch'an Painting Class 11am-12:30pm, Class fee \$20.
11 th March	Tsok (Padmasambhava Puja) 8pm
29 th March	2014 Friendship Dinner for UN Day of Vesak. 6:15pm
5 th April	Kallista Community Market fundraising stall
9 th April	Tsok (Padmasambhava Puja) 8pm
18 th April to 21 st April	Easter Bhavana Course
24 th May	Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak at Melbourne Town Hall (Dana offering will be at St Peters Parish Hall)

This is the only place in Vietnam that has this type of white rock. Venerable Thich Thien Tam suggests that in the future we place the image under our Bodhi tree.

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Vietnamese Visit

On Saturday 8th February 2014, Venerable Thich Thien Tam and approximately 350 to 400 laypeople from Hoa Nghiem Buddhist Temple in Springvale visited the Buddhist Discussion Centre in celebration of Vietnamese New Year as part of their temple pilgrimage.

Each year we look forward to hosting our special guests and take great joy in ensuring that they have plenty of refreshments and make lots of blessings while they are with us.



Photograph: Venerable Thich Thien Tam, Abbot of Hoa Nghiem Buddhist Temple, speaks with Anita Carter and Frank Carter during the Vietnamese New Year visit to the Buddhist Discussion Centre. Photograph by Peter Marshall, 8th February 2014.

Monthly General Meeting Update

The most recent General Meeting of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd was held on Saturday the 1st of March 2014.

At this meeting, Peppercorn Rent (eighteen peppercorns) was paid by the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd to the landlords of 33 Brooking Street, Upwey, Victoria 3158, Mrs Anita M. Carter and Mr Frank T. Carter for

the period 1st of January 2014 to 30th of June 2014.

The following items were discussed, amongst others:

- Peter Marshall recommended our Centre purchases a Chipper Mulcher to assist in the processing of larger branches in the humus heap that would otherwise need to be taken to the rubbish tip. The Chipper Mulcher would produce lovely mulch for the gardens. Out of respect for our neighbours, we will need to take into consideration the level of noise that may be produced by such a machine. Simon Kearney will investigate our options further.
- An article titled 'World Buddhist University Visits the Hills', compiled by Claire Ransome, was published in Issue 27 - February 2014 of the 'Ferntree Gully News' local paper. The article featured in the Churches section of the paper and reviewed the one day dialogue hosted by our Centre at the Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre and Library on Sunday 8th December.
- We wish to grow 30 Bodhi Tree plants to offer as gifts at the 2014 Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak celebration. We have received 150 seeds to cultivate. Thank you to Craig Ellis for offering to donate a freestanding green house and to Claire Ransome for purchasing the seeds.
- Claire Ransome advised the Kallista Community Market is held on the first Saturday each month, therefore the date advertised in the last Bulletin was incorrect.



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Our Kallista Community Market fundraising stall will instead be held on Saturday 5th April 2014.

Please bring any items that you wish to donate for the stall to the Centre before Thursday 3rd April 2014. Thank you.

- A large tree was cut down in preparation for the building of Frank and Anita Carter's new shed. Anita advised that she wishes to carve wooden Australian produced Buddha images out of the remaining wood. We will be able to offer the images as gifts and have some for sale to raise funds for our Centre.
- In July of 2014, Anita, Frank and Evelin plan to attend a retreat with the Supreme Matriach, Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim, at the Lotus Buddhist Monastery in Hawaii.

Passing away of a Founding Member of the Buddhist Discussion Centre

Mr Arthur John Mahoney, known as John, recently passed away at age 74. We wish to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to John for helping our Master John D. Hughes establish our precious Centre.

Thank you to those who joined in the chanting and sharing of merits with John for 7 nights following his death. We wish John all the best in his new birth.

John was a former Director and Vice President of the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd and was very supportive of some of the younger centre members by offering them employment in his business.



Photograph: Members and friends of the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc. committee at Hoa Nghiem Temple in Springvale, 17th February 2014.

Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc.

Planning for the 2014 United Nations Day of Vesak is well and truly underway. This year will be the 7th year that Victorian Buddhist temples and groups have come together for this auspicious event in Melbourne. Celebrating the United Nations Day of Vesak together offers a valuable opportunity to build and strengthen links of friendship, co-operation and unity between our various Buddhist traditions, international cultures and the wider community.

On Friday 14th March 2014, the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak organising committee received the great news that the application for formation of an association was approved. The association is now formally known as the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc.

Several members of the Buddhist Discussion Centre have been on the Vesak organising committee since its inception. At the meeting at Hoa Nghiem Temple on Sunday 17th February

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2014, Frank Carter was elected President, and Anita Carter was elected Secretary, of the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc. Congratulations to you both!

Following the meeting at which the office bearers were elected, the committee enjoyed a delicious vegetarian Vietnamese dinner and attended a film screening of the movie 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama'. The director of the movie, Saman Weeraman, and Gagan Malik, the actor who played Prince Siddhartha, were special guests at the dinner and film screening.

2014 Friendship Dinner

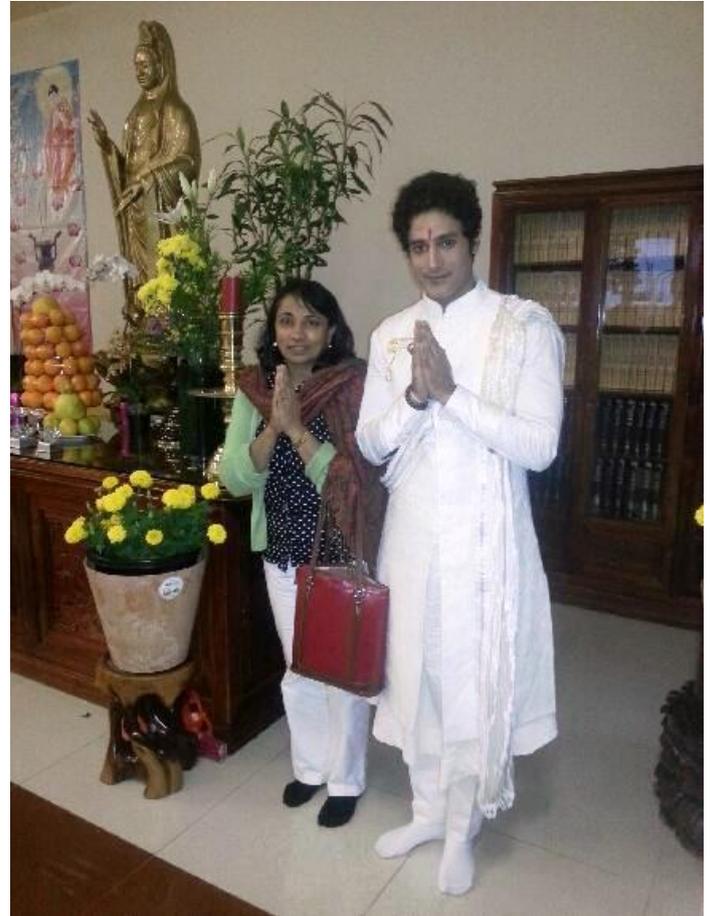
The Friendship Dinner, held each year at Quang Minh Temple, is the primary fundraising event for the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak. This year the dinner will be held on Saturday the 29th March at the Quang Minh Temple Community Hall, 18 Burke St Braybrook, Victoria.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity to meet with Dhamma friends and enjoy a delicious vegetarian Vietnamese dinner. There will be entertainment on the stage, a raffle and an auction.

Tickets cost \$25 each. Please advise Frank or Claire if you wish to purchase a ticket to sit on our table.

The 27th World Fellowship of Buddhists General Conference

The 27th World Fellowship of Buddhists General Conference will be held in The People's



Photograph: Anita Carter with Gagan Malik, the actor who played Prince Siddhartha in the film 'Sri Siddhartha Gautama'. Photograph taken by Frank Carter at Hoa Nghiem Temple in Springvale, 17th February 2014.

Republic of China, this year B.E. 2557 (2014), from the 14th October until 19th October.

The conference is a gathering of delegates and observers from World Fellowship of Buddhists Regional Centres around the world. For each conference, the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia provides a team of conference rapporteurs. The event is a peak opportunity to practice the 5 styles of our Centre: friendliness, professionalism, scholarship, practicality and



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cultural adaptability.

Congratulations to His Eminence 6th Zimwock Rinpoche

We are delighted to share that our good friend H.E. Zimwock Rinpoche has been formally granted permanent residency from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

H.E. Zimwock Rinpoche is the Spiritual Director of the Jamchen Buddhist Centre in Balwyn and is one of the highest Lamas in his own Tibetan Sakya tradition.

Surangama Puja

On Saturday 1st March we held a Surangama Puja. The Puja was guided by our Abbot Anita Carter, and all members were welcome to attend. May the merit of these good actions assist in preserving the current Buddha Sassene.

In the Dharma Ending Age, the Surangama Sutra is the first to disappear, and the rest of the sutras disappear after it. If the Surangama Sutra does not disappear, then the Proper Dharma Age is present.

Our Centre has pledged to conduct a Surangama Puja annually and aspires to do so each year on either New Year's Day or Australia Day.

Members News

Craig Ellis formally took the five precepts in a precepts ceremony conducted by our Abbot, Anita Carter, on Saturday 1 March 2014. Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu! Frank Carter and Craig's daughters were also present at the ceremony.

Frank and Anita's two car carport and shed at the end of the drive way is almost complete. Still to be added is the concrete base. Thank you to all who have assisted in the process so far.

The Buddhist Hour Team would like to farewell Trish Allen and thank her for being a valued team member for many years; we will miss your presence on the show and wish you well. We are delighted to give a warm welcome to our newest member of the radio team Craig Ellis. If any other members or students at our centre would like to be involved in the radio show, please contact Simon Kearny.

Congratulations to Adam and Tanya who have moved with their pets into a new house in Kilsyth.

Melba has moved to a house near the beach at Ocean Grove. We are so pleased for Melba and wish her happiness and peace in her new seaside abode.

Kalyanamitta Social Outing

On Tuesday 11th of February 2014, a group of members and friends had dinner at Burwood Teppanyaki House to celebrate Nicole's 29th Birthday. Teppanyaki is a style of Japanese cuisine which is cooked on a big steel hot plate in the centre of the table. Our chef entertained us with impressive culinary stunts while preparing our various meals. Bowls of rice were caught in mid-air and many laughs were had. It was an entertaining and joyful night out.

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Photograph: Members and friends celebrate Nicole's 29th birthday at Burwood Teppanyaki House. Photograph by Julian Bamford.

Flower Offerings – A note about Lilies

Lilies are admired for their exquisite blooms and make beautiful offerings on altars. We wish to kindly request, however, that at the Buddhist Discussion Centre lilies must only be handled and offered inside the hall, not outside, because they are extremely toxic to Padfoot the cat.

“Ingestion of lilies including Easter lilies, tiger lilies, rubrum or Japanese showy lilies, and various day lilies can potentially cause toxicity and kidney failure in cats. All parts of the lily are toxic to cats including the flowers, leaves and the pollen. Tiny amounts, even licking the pollen from their coat or drinking the water that the lilies are in, can cause toxicoses” (Advanced Vetcare Veterinary Referral Centre).

If handling lilies at our Centre, please do so carefully inside the hall and dispose of all parts of the flower by sealing them in plastic bags and carrying them straight to the rubbish bin.

Pour the water from the vase into the humus heap in a place that would be difficult for Padfoot to reach.

Thank you for assisting in maintaining the health and wellbeing of all of the beings who come to our Centre, including those with four feet.

Source:

Advanced Vetcare Veterinary Referral Centre, ‘Lily Toxicity in Cats’. www.advancevetcare.com.au/pet-emergency/24hr-emergency-and-critical-care/lily-toxicity (Accessed 27th March 2014).

Recipe of the Month

Each month in the Brooking Street Bulletin, we wish to provide a favourite recipe from our students, families and friends. One day we may put them together to create a recipe book.

If you would like to contribute a recipe, please email wbu@bdcu.org.au. Please ensure that you have permission to reproduce the recipe if it is coming from a book or website so that we do not infringe copyright laws.

Sticky Black Rice Pudding

Thank you to Evelin for kindly sharing with us the recipe for her very popular dish, Sticky Black Rice Pudding.

- Cook with two cups of water to every one cup of rice in cooking pot
- (Note: black rice takes a bit longer to cook than white or brown rice – some



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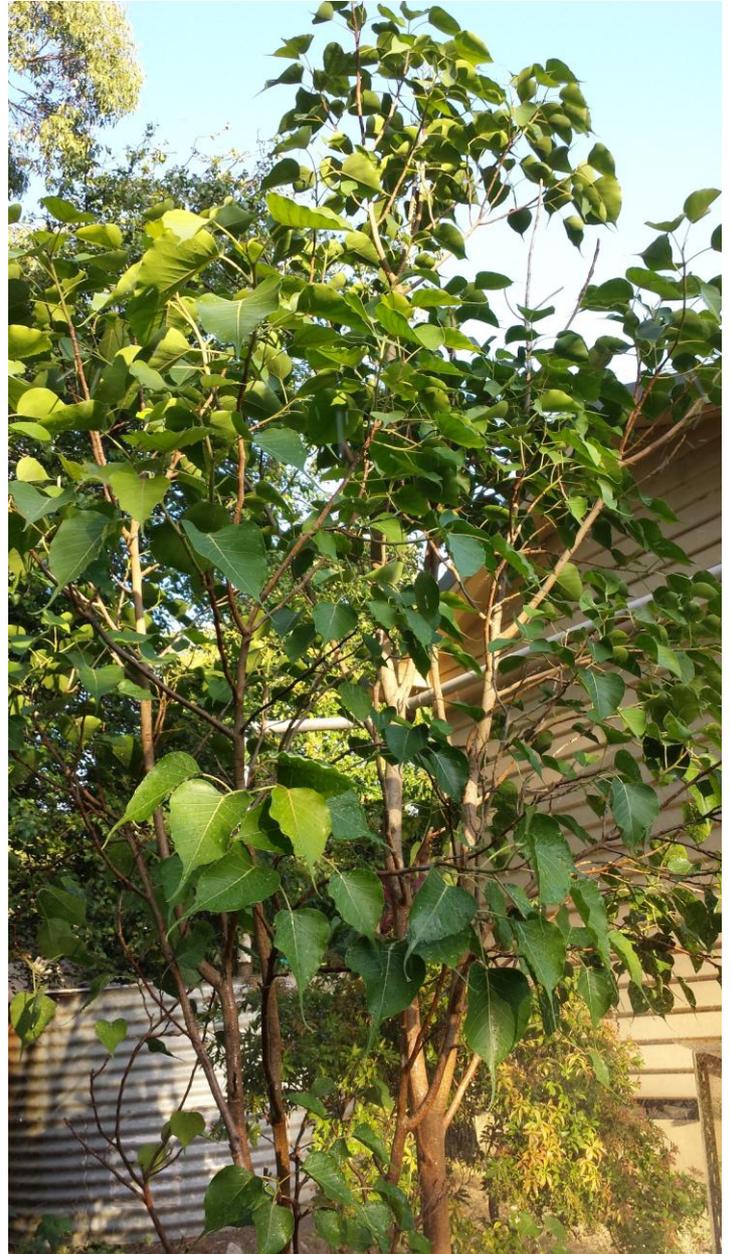


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people like to soak the rice in water over night to reduce cooking time)

- Simmer slowly until cooked
- When rice is cooked, add approximately ¼ cup sugar for two cups of rice, stir and dissolve sugar.
- Simmer for 5-10 minutes
- Serve topped with drizzle of coconut milk or coconut cream
- Decorate with slices of fresh banana
- Enjoy

Black rice is rich in health promoting antioxidants and Vitamin E compounds, and full of healthy fibres – one of nature's superfoods.



Photograph: The Bodhi tree in our Heavenly Dhamma garden is flourishing. Photograph by Claire Ransome, February 2014.