

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #62, June 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



Photo: Buddha Statue at Bodhgaya, India
Photograph by Sally Kelly during our 2011 pilgrimage.

Kalama Sutta

Do not simply believe what you hear just because you have heard it for a long time.

Do not follow tradition blindly merely because it has been practised in that way for many generations.

Do not be quick to listen to rumours.

Do not confirm anything just because it agrees with your scriptures.

Do not foolishly make assumptions.

Do not abruptly draw conclusions by what you see and hear.

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 Teachings for female students 8pm-10pm |
| Last Saturday of each month | Ch'an Painting Class, 11am-12:30pm, Class fee \$20. |
| First Saturday of each month | Kallista Market Stall 9am-1pm |
| Sunday 22nd June | Members' bus trip to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion near Bendigo |
| Saturday 5 July | 5.30pm General Meeting First Saturday of each month |
| Monday 7 July | Padmasambhava Tsok (Puja) 8pm |
| Wednesday 6th August | Padmasambhava Tsok (Puja) 8pm |
| Saturday 9th August | Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2pm |
| Sunday 10th August | AGM Grand Social Event |
| August – date to be confirmed | White Tara Empowerment |
| October – dates to be confirmed | World Fellowship of Buddhists Conference in China |



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Do not be fooled by outward appearances.

Do not hold on tightly to any view or idea just because you are comfortable with it.

Do not accept as fact anything that you yourself find to be logical.

Do not be convinced of anything out of respect and deference to your spiritual teachers.

You should go beyond opinion and belief. You can rightly reject anything which when accepted, practised and perfected leads to more aversion, more craving and more delusion. They are not beneficial and are to be avoided.

Conversely, you can rightly accept anything which when accepted and practised leads to unconditional love, contentment and wisdom. These things allow you time and space to develop a happy and peaceful mind.

This should be your criteria on what is and what is not the truth, on what should be and what should not be the spiritual practice.

THE BUDDHA.

United Nations Day of Vesak

The Victorian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak was held on the 24th of May in the Melbourne Town Hall. This auspicious occasion included the following:

Sangha Lunch Offering at St Peter’s Parish Hall, East Melbourne, Vesak Procession from the Parish Hall along Collins St to the Melbourne Town Hall Sangha and Relic Procession, Temple Offering Ceremony, Sangha Chanting (Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana), Dharma Recitation of the Three Watches of the Night of Buddha’s

Enlightenment, Metta (Loving Kindness) Meditation, Dedication of Merits, Cultural Performance, Interfaith Address, VIP Speeches and Gifts, Musical Performance, Finale, and Viewing and Veneration of Buddha Relics.

Thank you to all who helped with this most meritorious event. Well done to everyone who helped post out the Vesak cards to all World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) Regional Centres around the world and all Victorian Buddhist Centres.

May all the blessings of Vesak shower on you and your family always.

Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu.



Photo: Venerable Sangha and representatives from Victorian temples during the Temple Offering Ceremony at the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak. Photograph taken at the Melbourne Town Hall, courtesy of Quang Duc Temple.

Members’ Day

Saturday is Member’s Day. All members, friends and interested persons are warmly welcomed to come and join our merit making activities and Buddha Dhamma classes.



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We offer lunch to all present at 1pm and dinner at 7pm. If you wish to bring some food to contribute, please contact Simon Kearney on 9754 3334.

Please note that our General Meetings are now held on the first Saturday each month. Chan Painting classes are on the last Saturday each month.

Memberships

Soon you will receive your annual membership renewal forms. Welcome to our new Members during 2013-2014 and thank you to all of our ongoing Members for your continued support and help. Let goodly co-mates in the righteous life come here in the future and let those who have already come live happily.

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia's Key Objectives are:

- To introduce a philosophy of life based on Buddha Dhamma.
- To encourage the study, practice and realisation of Buddha Dhamma.
- To provide beings with Buddha Dhamma training.
- To preserve the Buddha Dhamma at this Temple for at least 500 years.

Your membership supports this Buddha Sasene and helps us continue to exist as a place where beings can learn, practise and realise the Buddha Dhamma.

General Meeting Update

Our Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd June General Meeting was held on Sunday the 8th of June at 6.30pm at the centre.

This meeting was an important occasion due to the election of our new President, our new Director and six new Vice Presidents into new management

roles offering their kind help to our Abbot Anita to look after and run our centre.

The new appointments are:

President: Frank Carter

Director: Evelin Martin

Vice President Knowledge Management
Evelin Martin

Vice President Corporate Governance and Reporting Public Relations - Simon Kearney

Vice President Corporate Governance and Reporting Administration - Nicole Moustakas

Vice President Corporate Governance and Reporting Fundraising - Adam Richards

Vice President Corporate Governance and Reporting Fundraising - Claire Ransome

Vice President Local Area Planning & Asset Management - Destin Nguyen

Assistant Treasurer: Destin Nguyen

We give our new office bearers our warm thanks and appreciation for offering your help to our Abbot and our centre and we wish you all the very best in your new roles.

We have also appointed Ivy Chen as a Volunteer Accountant to run our MYOB bookkeeping at the centre. Ivy is a registered CPA and has a senior professional role with an accounting firm in Melbourne. We warmly welcome Ivy to her new role.

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Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 9th of August 2014 at 2.00pm. Your presence at our AGM is welcomed and encouraged.

‘Application for Election of Office Bearer’ forms can now be found on display in our Meditation Hall in preparation for our AGM.

AGM Grand Social Event

Sunday 10th of August 2014 will be our second Annual General Meeting Grand Social Event. Last year we went for dinner at the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne. Please share with us any suggestions you may have for this year’s venue.

The event is a wonderful opportunity for our Members and Friends to come together for a special outing each year.

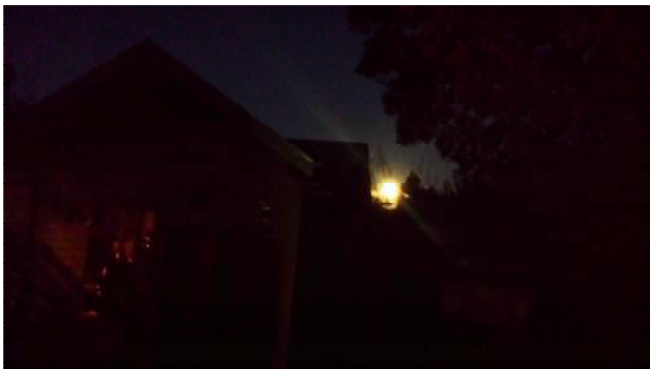


Photo: The Vesak Full Moon over our Centre. Members met at 4:30am for meditation on the morning of Vesak. Photograph taken by Claire Ransome at 6:27am on the 15th May 2014.

Vice President Updates

Knowledge Management

We now have a Google calendar on our website at www.bdcu.org.au/calendar.html.

Website visitors can customise the calendar view. There are many options for persons to access and use this calendar via their individual devices to keep track of our important events.

Administration

Please bring in or post your membership renewal forms to us by Sunday 10 August 2014, the date of our AGM. We pay respect to you and thank you for your friendship, generosity and support. Over the past year our Members' generosity, involvement and support has enabled our Centre to initiate and maintain many worthwhile Buddha Dhamma projects. We look forward to your continued support and welcome you to renew your Membership for the next 12 months.

Local Area Planning and Asset Management

In the coming weeks, the centre will be undergoing a re-organising of our onsite storage and archiving to provide sufficient storage facilities for at least another 10 years. This upgrade will include the protection and preservation of artworks created by our founding teacher, Master John D. Hughes, and other artists such as Sumi-e Master Andre Sollier in the new fire resistant storage shed.

The storage upgrade will provide a workshop, an archive area for our library, the de-cluttering of our Meditation Hall, the creation of a new garden area by the removal of the tool storage trailer and cabinet, and will allow us to reintroduce our administration filing system.

These outcomes will benefit our centre and members for many years to come and are an important part of our vision to preserve our heritage of Dhamma materials and resources.

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Please email Destin at destin.nguyen@gmail.com with the times you can help.

Fundraising

Now known at our Centre as ‘FUN-d-raising’, our Centre will be joyfully reviewing the way we generate wealth to support our Buddha Dhamma activities and the wider community.

If you have any fun ideas for fundraising, please contact our newly elected Vice Presidents Corporate Governance and Reporting Fundraising, Adam Richards and Claire Ransome.

Public Relations

Simon Kearney is delighted to accept the role of Vice President Corporate Governance Reporting Public Relations. He is looking forward to working closely with the other management teams and Members. May we create synergy and harmony in our operations and may we work together for many years to come.

The first event to be attended by the Vice President Corporate Governance Reporting Public Relations will be The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia’s visit to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo. Over the coming weeks, a Public Relations Plan will be developed that includes a calendar of events, research into how other Buddhist organisations conduct their publicity and a building process for recruitment.

If you have any concerns, queries or ideas regarding public relations, do not hesitate to contact Simon Kearney at the Centre on 9754 3334.



Photo: Anita Carter standing under a rainbow outside the John D. Hughes Dhamma Cetiya in the early morning of her birthday 4 May 2014. Photograph taken by Claire Ransome.

Anita’s Birthday

Our Abbot, Anita Carter, celebrated her birthday on Sunday 4th May 2014.



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The day started at 6am with a Shakyamuni Buddha Puja. At 11am, Members, Students and Friends of the Buddhist Discussion Centre came together with Anita's family and friends to offer dana to visiting Venerable Sangha from Wat Dhammaram and Mahamevnawa Meditation Centre.

Venerable Vijitha Wansa of Mahamevnawa Meditation Centre kindly gave an insightful Dhamma talk on the purpose and benefits of offering dana. In the afternoon we did a Padmasambhava Tsok and the Radio Team attended the Buddhist Hour broadcast.

Members and Students in attendance each offered Anita an image of Shakyamuni Buddha. A wonderful and meritorious day was had by all.

Venturers Visit

On Thursday 5th of June the 1st Ferntree Gully and 4th Knox Venturers, locally based scout groups, visited our Centre.

Frank and Anita gave an introduction to Buddhist culture and teachings. The visit contributed to the Venturers' program to learn about various religions and cultures outside of their own.

Master John Hughes kindly hosted the Venturers at our Centre beginning in the late 1970's. We have continued this tradition.

The Venturers thanked us for giving them an introduction into Buddhism.

White Tara Empowerment

Anita and interested students plan to do a White Tara Empowerment in August 2014 at Tara Institute, located in East Brighton, Victoria. The date is still to be advised. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

The Dakini Class students at our Centre have been learning about the qualities of female Buddhist deities such as Vajrayogini and White Tara, and have each started to paint a thangka.

Lotus Buddhist Monastery Retreat

In July Anita and Frank plan to attend a retreat with the Supreme Matriach, Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim, at the Lotus Buddhist Monastery in Hawaii. In the future Anita would like members of our Centre to do a retreat with the Great Venerable Master Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim.

Anita and Frank will be away from Saturday the 12th of July to Saturday the 2nd of August.

27th General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists

Our Abbot Anita, Frank and selected members of our centre will be attending the 27th World Fellowship of Buddhists General Conference, held this year in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, from 14-19th of October 2014 (dates still to be confirmed).

Shang Longrik Gyatso Rinpoche

The Venerable Master Shang Longrik Gyatso Rinpoche from Taiwan has postponed his trip to Australia. He is now visiting our Centre in November this year, with approximately 40 of his members.

Member's News

We are delighted to share the good news of several of our members.

On the 1st on June 2014, Adam Richards started his new career as a contracted salesman for Australian

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Air-conditioning Distributors. The role requires Adam to work in a friendly and professional manner to assist people within the trades to make purchases. He is delighted with his new career path.

Destin Nguyen was recently offered a full-time apprenticeship as a chef. He will be commencing his apprenticeship between late July and early August at a new cafe establishment in Lilydale. The cafe will be called Round Bird Can't Fly and is located at Shop 1/170 Main Street, Lilydale. All members are invited to visit Destin once the cafe opens.

Claire Ransome was accepted into the 2014 Suzuki Music Primary Course and has commenced weekly training to become an accredited Suzuki violin teacher.



Photo: Past and Present Radio Team Members at the General Food Store in Emerald before the 800th Buddhist Hour Radio Broadcast. 27th May 2014. L-R: Frank Carter, Anita Carter, Adam Richards, Nicole Moustakas, Claire Ransome, Craig Ellis, Evelin Martin, Julian Bamford and Trish Allen.

Monthly Recipe:

Gulab (rose) Jamum (round fruit)

Gulab (rose) Jamum (round fruit) is a traditional Indian desert. Anita has been making this desert since she was twelve years old.

Students helped Anita make Gulab Jamum for the Sangha dana offering at the 2014 Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak.

Ingredients

Balls:

- 3 cups full cream milk powder (Sunshine brand recommended) – sifted
- 1 cup white self raising flour
- 300-400ml thickened cream
- Sultanas

Syrup:

- 10 cups water
- 8 cups raw sugar
- 10 cardamom pods

Method:

1. Sift milk powder. Combine milk powder, flour and cream with hands to make dough.
2. Roll into balls and place one sultana inside each.
3. Boil syrup ingredients together for 35 minutes covered and then set aside.
4. Deep fry balls in medium hot oil; they will float to the surface. Turn each ball to get an even colour. Once brown drain until cool enough to touch, then add to warm syrup. Do not disturb, leave to soak for 1-2 hours then serve.

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Photo: On Sunday 4th May 2014, Venerable Sangha visited our Centre on the occasion of Anita's birthday. Anita's family and friends and Buddhist Discussion Centre members, students and friends came together for a dana offering and Dhamma Talk.