

Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #63, July 2014

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Chan Painting and Poem



Abbot Anita Carter on 12 July 2014, completing a Chan painting and poem. Anita wrote:

When Twilight lights the Curtain
and pins it with a Star,
Remember your true Friend
no matter where you are.

Your Friend the Truth
the Truth of who you are
Your emptiness, non-dual nature
of all things, the Universe and the Stars.

So, when Twilight lights the Curtain
and pins it with a Star,
remember every step you take
all you say and think
is creating who you are.

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.
Wednesday 6 August	Padmasambhava Tsok (Puja) 8pm
Saturday 9 August	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Sunday 10 August	AGM Grand Social Event
Sunday 10 August	White Tara Empowerment 9.45am-12.15pm
Saturday 6 September	General Meeting 5:30pm First Saturday of each month
October 14 to 19	World Fellowship of Buddhists Conference in China



Lotus Buddhist Monastery Retreat

Our Abbot Anita Carter and President Frank Carter are currently in retreat at Lotus Buddhist Monastery in Hawaii with the Supreme Matriarch Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim.

May Anita and Frank gain innumerable blessings, merits and benefits during their retreat as it is their innermost wish to bring the Buddha's teachings to the world to help all beings.

Anita and Frank will return to Australia on 2nd August 2014. We wish them a safe journey.

Thank you to our co-abbots Evelin Martin and Simon Kearney for taking on this responsibility during our Teacher's time away. Well done!

In the future Anita would like members of our Centre to do a retreat with the Great Master Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim.

AGM & Membership

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.

Please bring in your membership renewals.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 9th August 2014. Membership renewal forms and Notice of the AGM have been posted out.

Pujas

We will conduct a Medicine Buddha Puja every Thursday evening in the Dakini class starting at 8pm during the time our Teachers were away. That is Thursday 17th, 24th and 31st July 2014.



Photograph: Medicine Buddha puja offering. Photograph by Claire Ransome, 19th July 2014.

In place of our regular afternoon class Saturday on the 19th July 2014, we conducted a Medicine Buddha Puja. We shared the merits of the puja with the 298 people who passed away on the MH17 flight which crashed on 17th July 2014, and their loved ones. We wish the beings that passed away a happy and peaceful rebirth.

Dhammarajika Orphanage

On 20th June 2014 we transferred \$3123 to Dharmarajika Orphanage Bangladesh.

Thank you to Ishka Stores for their Dharmarajika Collection boxes project which has raised \$5,824.98 since September last year. Also thank you to the Camberwell Market stall and donations made by individuals towards the orphanage.

On the 24th of June 2014, we received the following email of thanks from Venerable



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Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero, President and Lord Abbot of Dharmarajika Orphanage:

Dear Mr. Carter,

At the outset, let me offer my hearty blessings to you, Ms. Anita Carter and the members of Buddhist Discussion Centre. I wish to convey my special thanks and gratitude to the staff and the management of Ishka who have taken much trouble for obtaining fund for our orphan and destitute children.

As you are aware of fact that for maintaining a big orphanage we have to be continuously concerned for multipurpose problem of which the food problem is the acute one. We have to provide three times meals daily of which the rice is the staple food.

In the morning gruel is served as breakfast which needs around 40 K.G.'s of rice. At noon around 120 K.G. of rice is needed for lunch and in the evening 100 K.G. required for dinner. In that case per day rice requirement is 260 K.G. On an average one K.G. of rice is Taka 38 to 40. Therefore we have to spend Taka 10,000/- (Taka ten thousand) on average per day for purchasing rice only (excluding vegetable, lentils and other curry, spices, vegetable oils etc.).

There will be a possibility of Taka 2,43,000/- (Taka two hundred forty-three thousand) after conversion of US\$3,098 (after reduction by bank). We have decided to procure rice for 20 days which will be around Taka 2,00,000/- (Taka hundred thousand).

With rest amount, we can procure Half Shirt and Full Trouser for 105 children. The average price of one Half Shirt for children is Taka 160/- (Taka one hundred sixty) while one Full Trouser is Taka 250/- (Taka two hundred fifty).

Our Government has been providing limited amount of Taka twice a year as the Capitation Grant. Besides this, we receive uncertain lump-sum amount of grant which are not recurring but uncertain.

The amount of grant which you have been so kind to send is indeed a sigh of relief for three weeks. May all of you attain the merit of such donation for the cause of humanity.

May all of you live long in peace, happiness and prosperity.

May all living beings be happy.

With Metta & best wishes in Dhamma,

Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero
President, Dharmarajika Orphanage
And
Lord Abbot, Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery

Thank You Message

Our Centre received a thank you card from one of the Regional Centres of the WFB, for our Vesak Greeting Card. The card message reads: "Dear friends in the Dhamma, Thank you so much for your kind Vesak Greetings! May all beings be free, May our leaders wise up and peace will come! With metta – Dr. Itamar Bashan and Dr. Thor Gonen, Bhavana House, Dhamma Sanctuary and Meditation Centre, Tel Aviv, Israel."

White Tara Empowerment

Venerable Geshe Lobsang Dorje Doga (resident teacher of Atisha Centre) will be conducting a White Tara Initiation at Tara Institute from 9.45am to 12:00pm on Sunday 10th August 2014 (the same day as our AGM Grand Social Event). Tara Institute is located at 3 Mavis Avenue, East Brighton VIC 3187. Cost: free. Several of our Members will be attending this initiation. If you are interested please speak with Nicole.

The Tara Institute and Dalai Lama in Australia websites state: "White Tara represents the feminine energy of the Buddhas. She is said to have originated from the tears of the deity Avalokiteshvara, when he wept about the extent and intensity of the suffering experienced by all



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beings. Tara puts Avalokiteshvara's wishes into practice, caring for each and every sentient being as a mother would her precious child. Students who receive an empowerment or undertake the practice of White Tara will increase their spiritual vitality, intensify their capacity for compassion, and overcome fears including the fear of death."

References:

Tara Institute, <http://www.tarainstitute.org.au/tara-institute>

The Dalai Lama in Australia,

<http://www.dalailamainaustralia.org>

Accessed 6th July 2014

Bodhi Care

Anita advised she is considering raising funds to buy a large block of land near our Centre to build Bodhi Care Nursing Home. This is a very big meritorious project that would help and bless many.

AGM Grand Social Event

We warmly invite you, your friends and family to our Annual General Meeting Grand Social Event on Sunday 10th August 2014, the day after our Annual General Meeting. It falls on the same day as the Tara Initiation.

It is an opportunity for kalyanamitta friends to share a delicious meal, celebrate the occasion of our AGM and rejoice in our good fortune and many auspicious blessings of being a Member of our Buddha Dhamma centre this life.

This year, the Grand Social Event will be held at the Melba Restaurant located at 1 Southgate Ave, Southbank, Melbourne, Victoria 3006 (within the Langham Hotel). Guests are requested to arrive at 7:30pm.

Anita, Frank and Peter have kindly offered to contribute \$30 for each Buddhist Discussion Centre Member who attends. This will bring the cost down to \$62.90 per member and \$92.90 for friends and family for a buffet style dinner.

The dress code is formal and elegant. Please RSVP to Simon by email wbu@bdcu.org.au or 0488 666 720 by Monday 28th July 2014.

Please advise as to whether you wish to carpool with us from the Centre or will make your own way to the restaurant.

Great Stupa of Universal Compassion Visit

On Sunday the 22nd of June 2014, Members of the Buddhist Discussion Australia visited Atisha Centre and the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion located near Bendigo. It has been over 10 years since our founder, the late John D. Hughes attended this Centre and he requested current Abbot, Anita Carter to make a pilgrimage every 10 years.

Members travelled on a 25 seat bus, and chanted *A Lamp for the Enlightenment Path* composed by Atisha partway through journey. On arrival we were shown two short films on the History of the Atisha Centre and given a tour of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion. While in the Stupa, Buddhist Discussion Centre Members read aloud *Prayers to be made when you visit the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion* by Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche, helping to promote the Dhamma field. We made our own offering to the Stupa by chanting a specifically designed Buddha Dhamma Blessing Puja, assisting many beings to gain a better birth. Buddhist Discussion Centre Members also spent time in the main meditation hall and visited the monastic quarters at the Atisha Centre.

The Atisha Centre and Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is an inspiration for Buddhist practitioners in Victoria and across the world. It provides vast stores of merit for not only those who have worked to build it, but also for all beings who visit the site. The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia congratulates Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the members of the Atisha Buddhist Centre for their achievement; well done.

Photographs next page: Buddha image (top) and Padmasambhava image (bottom) inside the Stupa.



Vice President Updates:

Public Relations

The next occasion on the public relations calendar is the Buddhist Discussion Centre (Upwey) Ltd. AGM Grand Social Event. It will be held at the Melba Restaurant in the Langham Hotel (see above for details). The evening is a valued opportunity for members to make many wholesome causes with goodly co-mates in the Dhamma. May it strengthen relations between members, may it be fun filled, inspiring and nourishing. May all beings be well and happy. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Knowledge Management

“The touchstone of our methodology for gathering, processing and utilising information is knowledge management. The content is Buddha Dhamma.”

🌸 *By John D Hughes*

We are currently working with Isys Text Retrieval System to re-index all files on our LAN. We have added/copied all data from our old H: drive onto the newer I: drive. We wish to preserve these precious Buddha Dhamma materials, which have been accumulated in a time period spanning more than 35 years and contain much material written by our Founder Master John D Hughes.

Local Area Planning & Asset Management

The reorganising of our onsite storage and archiving facilities has progressed over the past fortnight with the shelving units and benches been set up in the new shed. The next phase involving the relocation of the centre’s artworks will commence once Frank and Anita have returned from their retreat in Hawaii.

We are presently looking into the acquisition of a router extender for our centre and the installation of larger projector screen for the Meditation Hall. Please advise Destin Nguyen should you have any recommendations that may assist us in the acquisitions of these items.

Photographs by Evelin Martin



Administration

This year's Annual General Meeting will be carried out using the Centre's new projector. From now on, we plan to utilise this technology for all of our meetings as we take steps towards using less paper.

Family members and friends in the Dhamma are most welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting. It is a significant time for us to reflect on the previous year's highlights and achievements.

Fundraising to Enlightenment!

On 28th June 2014, Anita Carter, Frank Carter, Evelin Martin, Simon Kearney, Adam Richards, Claire Ransome, Nicole Moustakas and Destin Nguyen were present for the first official fundraising meeting of the year.

At the meeting we discussed the exciting and highly meritorious projects we wish to undertake as a Buddhist organisation. We looked at our current fundraising income and discussed how we could go about expanding it to be able to fund projects such as Bodhicare. The suggestions offered at the meeting were well received and we **WELCOME** many more suggestions at our next fundraising meeting (date and to be confirmed).

In other news, we have set up an altar for the Deva of Fundraising and Retinue below the God of Wealth altar in the Sariputta room.

Thank you to all who are participating in this new fundraising movement. May we complete and put into action our new fresh Fundraising plan in the near future.



Photograph: The new Deva of Fundraising and Retinue altar in the Sariputta Room at our Centre.

27th General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists

The 27th World Fellowship of Buddhists General Conference will be held at Baoji Municipal in Shaanxi Province, of the People's Republic of China from 14-19th of October 2014. We are delighted to advise that a delegation of five Members from our Centre will be attending the conference, to perform the rappoteuring duties as required. The team includes Anita Carter, Frank Carter, Sally Kelly, Evelin Martin and Nicole Moustakas. For further information and interest in attending please contact Frank.

'Blessed' Baby Blankets

At the recent Fundraising meeting, we discussed potential products to sell at our Kallista market stall and other fundraising opportunities. We decided on the label 'Blessed' to brand our products.

One of the products we will be making to sell is baby blankets. We invite any members, students and friends of our Centre who wish to be involved to please crochet, knit and quilt blankets for this project. We will also accept single squares which can be combined with others to create blankets.

Claire is happy to teach basic crochet to anyone who wishes to learn how to make Granny Squares. Please contact Claire on 0425 864 056 if you are interested.

Monthly Recipe: Spinach Pancakes

Recipe from Emma Song

Ingredients:

- Frozen spinach - 1 cube per person
- 1 normal size egg per person
- Sprinkle of Italian herbs (to taste), veggie salt and lemon pepper.

Method:

- Defrost frozen spinach in microwave. Mix egg/s.



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- Combine all ingredients to taste.
- Fry on low heat in olive oil.
- I.e.: 4 eggs + 4 spinach cubes serves four people.

Emma created this recipe to offer dana to vegetarian Sangha members.



Anita offered this painting to the Supreme Matriarch Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim at Lotus Buddhist Monastery in Hawaii, where Anita and Frank are currently doing a retreat.

Photograph by Evelin Martin, 12 July 2014.