



Brooking Street Bulletin

Issue #88, July 2019



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 03 9754 3334

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

Abbot's Message



*Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato
Sammāsambuddhasa*

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 practiced 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.

Do not be fooled by outward appearance.

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, practiced 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 practiced 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

Love Anita

Important Dates

<i>Every Saturday</i>	<u>11am – 10 pm</u> Dhamma Day Meritorious activities and Classes when scheduled
<i>Every Saturday</i>	<u>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</u> Buddhist Meditation & Discussion Class
<i>Every Thursday</i>	<u>8 pm</u> Mahamudra Class
<i>Every Sunday</i>	<u>4 pm – 5 pm</u> Buddhist Hour live on 3MDR 97.1fm
<i>Saturday</i> 13 July, 17 Aug, 14 Sep, 12 Oct	<u>11 am – 12.30 pm</u> Chan Painting Class (Monthly)
<i>Saturday</i> 24 Aug, 31 Aug, 7 Sep	<u>11 am - 12 pm</u> Children Dhamma Class (weekly)



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Hoa Nghiem School Visit on the 27th of June 2019

On Thursday the 27th of June, we hosted a visit of students from the Hoa Nghiem Primary School which is located at Hoa Nghiem Temple, Springvale. At around 2:00 pm, 41 students from prep to grade six arrived at 33 Brooking Street with four of their teachers, their Principal, Venerable Tu My, and another Venerable visiting from New Zealand. They were also accompanied by several parents assisting on the day. The children were on an end of term excursion visiting a number of different temples and places of worship, representing a variety of faiths and cultures.

Their bus had set off from their school in Springvale at 8:30 am, so by the time they reached us they were hungry and starting to tire. Destin met their bus at Burrinja and guided them on the short walk to the BDC, where the group was welcomed by Claire and myself. We gave them time to eat their lunch in the serenity of the garden, before inviting them to explore the grounds and the many features of our beautiful centre. The students then gathered in the hall for a quick chat and then Claire led them through a guided meditation.

It was a wonderful opportunity for us to host this visit and to deepen our connections with the wider Buddhist community. The children appeared to enjoy the visit and were very grateful to explore a temple so different from their own. The visit also allowed us to have conversations with the Venerable and teachers about ways that we could potentially assist and support them in the future.

Article Author: Brooke

Members Visit the Hoa Nghiem Primary School

On Wednesday the 3rd of July 2019, members of the Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia visited the newly established Hoa Nghiem Primary School

in Springvale. They were invited by the school's principal, Venerable Tu My to share their experience as teachers and administrators in the state school system. Brooke Cross, a primary school principal, will assist the Venerable to prepare her organisation for an upcoming educational review they will undergo in 2020. The Education Department conducts such reviews every four years to analyse a school's strategic plan and it's compliance in regards to all the correct policies and procedures. The review will be used to formulate a new strategic plan for the next four years. As a secondary school teacher, Simon Kearney will be assisting Hoa Nghiem to develop a Humanities and English curriculum from year seven to ten to include as part of their application to open a high school.

Brooke and Simon spent several hours touring the premises and discussing the daily operation of the school, the students, teaching methodologies and Venerable's vision for the future. Brooke was most impressed to observe the wealth of the most up to date literacy resources the school possesses. Hoa Nghiem Primary School has been in operation for four years and currently has 41 students enrolled from prep to year six.

Brooke and Simon look forward to working with the Venerable in the future.

Article Author: Simon

Social Media

The centre's Instagram account ([buddhistdiscussioncentreaus](https://www.instagram.com/buddhistdiscussioncentreaus)) has been more active over the past few months.

We continue to aspire to be more present on the various Social Media platforms with the primary intention to disseminate the Dhamma. If you are interested in joining the Social Media team, please contact Destin via email at wbu@bdcu.org.au

Article Author: Des



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Buddha House Construction Update

At the recent Winter Bhavana Course, members completed construction of a temporary platform for the Buddha Rupa. Well done to all who organised and participated in the project.

The next stage will involve the dismantling of the existing roof above and balustrade of the Golden Pavilion. This will be followed by the temporarily relocation of the Buddha with the assistance of a crane. If you wish to contribute your time and efforts to the project or cover a portion of the cost involved, crane hire included, please contact Destin via email at wbu@bdcu.org.au

Article Author: Des

Belgrave Lantern Parade

On Saturday 22nd June, Members and Friends of our Centre attended the Belgrave Lantern Parade, spreading the light of loving kindness into our local community. The Lantern Parade celebrates the Winter Solstice and has been held annually in Belgrave for the last 13 years. It was a beautiful event and although very cold, we rejoiced in the offering of light and friendship and there were smiles all around.



Photo: Anita, Martin, Jenny and Claire at the Belgrave Lantern Parade.

Article Author: Claire **Photograph:** Vinse

Standing Committee on Women

In celebration of International Women’s Day 2019, Anita advised that our Centre will establish a Standing Committee on Women in association with the World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) Standing Committee on Women.

The purpose of this committee is to assist the World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) Standing Committee on Women with their resolutions and actively support issues concerning Women and Children both locally and globally.

As of July 2019, the committee has held 3 meetings which have been well attended by members of our Centre.

Projects we are currently working on include:

- Assisting with the editing and publishing of a book for children and families which Anita has written along with the WFB Women's Committee.
- Investigating how we can support vulnerable women and children in our community, particularly those fleeing domestic violence. It was brought to our attention that many women in this situation may not be aware of legal aid and other services available which will provide support for them and their children. We will investigate avenues to raise awareness of this support, such as distributing brochures.
- Recording calming and healing meditation CD's / Online recordings for both victims and existing/potential perpetrators.
- Designing an appropriate program for both victim of abuse and existing/potential perpetrators.
- Creating a calendar of relevant international and national dates which we can celebrate or acknowledge throughout the year.



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We are collecting the following sought-after items to be donated to women and children who are fleeing domestic violence:

- Toys
- Haircut vouchers
- Movie Vouchers
- Petrol Vouchers
- Food Vouchers
- Blankets
- Sanitary Products
- Monetary donations

If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to our Centre by Saturday 10th August (the day of the AGM). We will package and offer them to a service that takes these items and will distribute them to those in need.

We warmly invite all Members and Friends to join the committee and be involved in these projects.

May all beings be well and happy.

Article Author: Claire

Children Dharma Class 2019

In 2019, our Centre is offering a series of 9 classes for children and their families.

In these sessions, which are led by school teachers Sally, Simon and Claire, participants have the opportunity to experience some of the stories and practices taught by the Buddha.

The recent classes that took place in Term 2 were well received by both the children and their parents. Some of the activities that children enjoyed included:

- Making offerings of flowers and incense to the Buddha and all of the beings in our environment

- Ringing the big temple bell in the garden and sending metta
- Walking Meditation in the Garden
- Learning the Pebble Meditation from Thich Nhat Hanh
- Celebrating Vesak by making lanterns and colouring in pictures of the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing. (See photo below)
- Learning about friendship and making friendship bracelets that were blessed and given to loved ones
- Singing some of the delightful Dhamma songs from Plum Village Monastery in France

The remaining 3 classes in Term 3 of 2019 will take place on 24th August, 31st August and 7th September

Classes are offered free of charge. Children can join in any time, it is not necessary to attend every class to benefit. To RSVP, please email wbu@bdcu.org.au or call Claire on 0425 864 056

The Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia is committed to providing a Child Safe Environment and complying with our obligations under the Child Safe Standards 2015 and legislation including the Child Youth and Families Act 2005.



Photos: Lanterns coloured in and made by one of the children and her mother in our Dhamma Class for Children and Families in celebration of Vesak.

Article & photographs Author: Claire



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Fundraising Activities

Mother's Day Flower Stall

Thank you to all who supported our Mother's Day Flower Stall Fundraiser on Sunday 12th May 2019. Our volunteers worked joyfully, harmoniously and effectively together to sell flowers to the general public and make lots of good causes.

We are delighted to report that we raised **\$1,597.52** for our Centre and **\$177.40** for Dhammarajika Orphanage in Bangladesh.

Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!

What a fantastic outcome to support the activities of our Centre and the children at Dharmarajika Orphanage.

We thank the Team at the City of Knox Council for their generosity in waiving our entire permit fee this year, which certainly pushed our profit to a higher figure.

This year, we had our usual stall on the Corner of Applegum Drive and Burwood Highway, and our second site was located at a new spot near the corner of Burwood Highway and Stud Road, in the Collier Reserve car park. Whilst we had some reservations about the visibility and the safety of this location, after shifting the stall back to a safer spot and along with some extra signage (thanks to Mike for his painting the evening before the event), it turned out to be a very successful stall.

We had a number of customers requesting EFTPOS payment, so we will consider providing this option for future fundraising events. We ended up accepting Bank Transfers as a form of payment and this made up \$520 of our sales.

Please find some photos from our stalls and smiling volunteers below. Thank you once again for lending a helping hand. May the blessings of your good actions support you on your Buddha Dhamma path and in all your endeavours.



Photo: Leonie at the Applegum Drive Flower Stall



Photo: Vinse, Julian and Claire at the new flower stall site on the corner of Stud Road and Burwood Highway in the Collier Reserve car park.

Article Author: Claire **Photographs:** Claire & Vinse

Crowd Funding for Buddha's Image House

We are planning to host a Crowd Funding campaign to raise money to build our new Buddha Pavilion Image Room in the garden at our Centre. The new construction will be a contemporary style architect designed building and will house and



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protect our centre's largest Buddha image which is currently installed in a temporary housing on the Golden Pavilion.

The room will also serve as a mediation space for visitors and students at our Centre. The building is scheduled for completion by the end of 2020.

In the time of the Buddha, on the occasion of the dedication of the VenuvanVihar Temple by the King Bimbisara, the Lord Buddha said:

“None is able to describe the merit of donating a Vihar except the Buddha, the Lord of the universe, if some thousands of learneds describe that, there will be no end.”

At present, we are investigating various Crowd Funding platforms to see which one is the most suitable for our project. We invite Members who are interested in helping with the campaign to be involved. Please contact Claire (wbu@bdcu.org.au) to share your expression of interest.

Article Author: Claire

Frank's Retreat in Hawaii

Anita, Simon and David joyously welcomed Frank home at Tullamarine airport on Sunday the 7th of July at around 9.00 pm after his seven-week retreat at Lotus Buddhist Monastery, Hawaii.

It was a wonderful surprise for Frank to be greeted by them all at the airport after being off the grid for so long!

Our Teacher and Founder John Hughes recommended students to work for 20 years looking after our Buddhist temple, then go on a long-term retreat. Franks retreat was under the care and guidance of Korean born, Supreme Matriarch, Ji Kwang Dae Poep Sa Nim, Maha Bodhisattva, and Founder of the Lotus Buddhist Monastery. The monastery is a dedicated training and practice environment for the bodhisattva path.

During the retreat Frank followed the daily practices of 108 prostrations, Ki Song exercises, repentance circumambulations of the Buddha's relics, requests to Kwan Yin (Avalokitesvara Maha Bodhisattva), chanting of many thousand mantra's, Samadhi meditation, writing out in English the Lotus Flower Sutra, traditional chanting with the monks, working in the monastery kitchen, and daily laughing practice.

Frank also was very fortunate to be invited to share a private lunch with Dae Pope Sa Nim and the monastery monks on numerous occasions. Dae Poep Sa Nim often gave Dharma teachings and Blessings during or after the lunches, as well as providing a written Dharma Sutra Teaching every day, for the past 25 years.

Frank lost around 10 kilograms during the retreat due to the extraordinarily healthy food provided at the monastery and the physical exercise associated with the practice. The Master personally oversaw the meal preparation and cooking in her own kitchen every second day and the monastery kitchen provided all other meals. Although the lineage is traditional Korean Mahayana, the monastery is not vegetarian.

Frank feels he has benefited very much from the practice during his retreat and from the Blessings given by Dae Poep Sa Nim who is this ancient lineage's current lineage holder and transmitter.



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