



QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Buddhist Sangha

Queensland Sangha Association Inc

108 Eric Street, Goodna, Queensland 4300, Australia.

Website: <http://www.sanghaqld.org>

Email: <mailto:infoqsa@gmail.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sanghaqld/>

ABN 56 506 052 172



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SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA SELECTED FROM THE DHAMMAPADA (81)

As a solid rock is unshaken by the wind, the wise are unshaken by
praise and blame.





BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS INC (BESS)

LOOKS FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

Sharing the Wisdom of The Buddha

Are you interested in sharing the wisdom of the Buddha with children? Would you like to train as a teacher of Buddhism in Queensland's primary schools? Perhaps you are able to support this work financially or with administrative skills? These ideas may not have occurred to you before!

BESS (Buddhist Education Services for Schools Inc.) is fourteen years old, an initiative of Rahu Sarath-Chandra who recognised that an integrated and coordinated program of Buddhist studies would allow Buddhism to be a part of the Religious Instruction program in Queensland schools. BESS continues to recruit, train, and support Buddhist practitioners to teach in primary schools, sharing the wisdom of The Buddha with children. Some volunteer teachers have been with us from the beginning with many joining along the way, and of course, people come and go. We are welcoming new members. Is it your turn?

BESS offers a substantial mentorship program for new teachers, great material resources, a professional development program, and the friendship and camaraderie offered by working in harmony with Buddhists from all

cultures and traditions in Queensland.

Potential volunteers are usually concerned about their ability to teach. They think, "Am I really ready for this!" or, "I don't know the Dharma well enough," and of course, "I'm concerned that I will make mistakes." Many of our experienced teachers have these initial concerns and fears, myself amongst them, and we can all honestly report how quickly these doubts and obstacles were transformed. The weekly interactions in the classrooms, along with the preparation of the lessons and sharing experiences with others at regular teacher training sessions, offer an extraordinary opportunity to learn and look more deeply into the Dharma. The work is quite glorious and exhilarating actually, and new teachers quickly become very enthusiastic, with their confidence growing as they find unexpected and amazingly positive rewards for sharing the wisdom of The Buddha with the children. Teaching these young students has a dramatic, and unexpected, impact on deepening our own Dharma practice.

The core of our work at BESS is sharing the wisdom of The Buddha with children. However, as with every organisation, there is a lot of background work done by unsung heroes who keep the wheels turning. For

BESS this involves coordinating teachers and schools, arranging professional development, to name but a few administration tasks. We would welcome volunteers who have technical or administration skills to offer the management team, and, of course, we always welcome members who simply want to offer some financial support to BESS.

I invite you to join us in this important work that benefits every single person who is involved.

Thank you for reading this information and I look forward to hearing from you and sharing more about our work: bess.info.qld@gmail.com

Venerable Tseten

President of Buddhist Education Services



Buddhist Education Services for Schools Inc. (BESS) ABN 6219430254

Promoting universal values for living together in peace and harmony for the happiness, health and prosperity of all

President: Venerable Tseten
Secretary: Maria Thornton
Treasurer: Cheryl Grange

General Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy Ninth repetition – June/July 2021

The ninth batch is full. A waiting list has been set up for additional applicants. Thank you to all who applied. The course starts in early June.

A NEW COURSE IN SPECIALISED BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY**INTRODUCTION TO HOSPITAL AND
END OF LIFE CHAPLAINCY COURSE**

(100 Hours)

This new chaplaincy course aims to provide some basic tools to guide those who are interested in – or already engaged in - chaplaincy in hospitals, hospices, aged care and home care contexts.

The topics to be covered include:

- Identifying and assessing needs for chaplaincy services
- Models and limits of chaplaincy in hospitals, hospices, aged care and home contexts
- End of life practice
- Aging
- Cultivating Presence - communication skills for chaplains
- differences and sensitivities in the Queensland community (culture, race, gender, sexuality, etc); differences within Buddhist communities in Queensland
- Buddhist and Inter-Faith rituals for supporting people who are ill, aging, dying and bereaved; Buddhist approaches to end of life and death
- self-care for chaplains.

This course will involve 20 hours of class attendance (9am to 1pm) in Brisbane on the following dates: September 12, September 19, September 26, October 17 and October 24.

In addition, students will be required to complete at least 80 hours of additional work including: reading in preparation for class discussion, practicing communication skills, internet research, keeping a reflective journal, writing a personal/spiritual biography, writing a short review of an assigned book, and completion of a final exam.

Entry Requirements for Buddhist Chaplaincy 102:

- Completion of the Queensland Sangha Association's Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy or equivalent. See <https://www.sanghaql.org/>
- a good level of written and

spoken English. The course includes reading and discussion of English-language texts (some of which may be quite challenging) as well as written assignments. However, additional support is available for students for whom English is a second language.

For the full information package about this course – including how to apply for enrolment please email Dr Barbara Sullivan at barbara.sullivan4005@gmail.com



BUDDHIST FORUM (3) PATHWAY TO NIBBANA

Session 10 and 11 held

Sessions 10 and 11 on mindfulness were held on Sunday afternoons in May under the leadership of Mr. Amaranath Jayakody, Dhamma Teacher of the Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism.

Mr. Jayakody was ordained as a monk on the 26th of May.

If you wish to participate in forum 3 please ask for the ZOOM codes. Please write to infoqsa@gmail.com

BUDDHIST FORUM 04-REQUESTED TOPICS

Session 2 was held 26 May, Vesak Day

Buddhist Forum 04 session 2 was held on Vesak Day 26 May 2021. The topic was the thirty seven factors of enlightenment (Bodhi Pakkhiya Dhamma).

The full script of the session was issued to participants for study and comment.

The ZOOM medium was used. The presentation was made by Tanuja Yasanga Sarath-Chandra, Buddhist Chaplain and discussions were led by Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra, Buddhist Chaplain.

The ZOOM record of the

Forum can be made available to anyone interested for a limited time.

Please send an email to infoqsa@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in Forum 4. This is important since we try to conduct the forum in a language suitable to all the participants. The language could be English or a combination of English and Sinhala. When registering for participation you can indicate the choice of language.

Topics for future discussions also can be proposed by readers of this newsletter. For the next

full moon day, we hope to compete the 37 factors of enlightenment, and move on a new topic depending on time available. The next tentative date is 24 June 2021.





ROBYN BEAN IS THE MANAGER OF THE QSA FACEBOOK PAGE

Robyn Bean, registered Buddhist Chaplain is now functioning as the Manager of the QSA Facebook page.

DR. SANKA WASALTHILAKE IS THE NEW EDITOR OF THE QSA DHAMMA MAGAZINE

Dr. Sanka Wasalthilake has taken over the additional function of Editor of the QSA Dhamma Magazine. Sanka has for sometime been a lecturer in Buddhism at the NanTien Institute (the only Buddhist University in Australia).

Sanka is also a member of the general consultancy ream of QSA.

VACANCY: THE POSITION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY (2) OF QSA NEEDS TO BE FILLED

Lyna Chen from the Chung Tian Temple has been appointed by the committee as the Deputy Secretary (1) of QSA. The position of Deputy Secretary (2) continues to be vacant. Some management skills are necessary.

Acknowledgements:

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this newsletter to a friend who
is likely to benefit.

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This newsletter is issued by
President of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

Queensland Sangha Association Inc

An incorporated association of Buddhist monks and nuns in Queensland, Australia. Est. 2007

108 Eric Street
Goodna
Queensland 4300
Australia