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QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Buddhist Sangha

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SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA SELECTED FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

One should allow a wise man who admonishes one for one's faults, as one would follow a guide to some buried treasure. To one who follows such a wise man, it will be an advantage and not a disadvantage.

Dhammapada stanza 76)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!

2020 will be remembered throughout history as the year of the pandemic. Covid 19 spread around the world infecting over 190 countries and took the lives of over one million people. Its effects were far reaching and will be felt for a long time yet. It touched the lives of every person in the world to some degree. Sometimes slight, sometimes profound. But, in the face of so much suffering humankind has been able to rise above it by coming together. People are helping each other in many ways to get through this difficult time. Such kindness is an affirmation of the goodness within.

2021 bring its own problems but let us continue to realise the connectedness between all people.

Reverend Tetsuyu Wilson
President
Queensland Sangha Association Inc

FIFTH QUEENSLAND BUDDHIST CONVOCATION 2020

On 29th November 2020, approximately 50 people attended the 5th Queensland Buddhist Convocation held at the Wat Thai Buddharam in Brisbane. **The QSA is immensely grateful to the monks and lay people of the Wat Thai Buddaram for their generous hospitality in hosting this event once again.**

To start the Convocation an Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Mr David Pullen, who is a Dharug man and a Buddhist. He told us about the history and geography of the land we were meeting on; on behalf of all of us, he acknowledged the custodians of this land and offered respect to Aboriginal elders past, present and emerging.

The Convocation was chaired by the President of the QSA, Rev James Wilson. The guest speaker was Venerable Miao Lai, who is a resident teacher at Chung Tian Temple, Brisbane. The topic of Venerable Miao Lai's very interesting talk was "Faith and Legacy: Humanistic Buddhism".

Certificates of completion were presented to students who have recently completed the QSA's Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy: Alison Smith (Rockhampton), Elan Zavelsky, Elesha Dawson, Esteban Monti, Genevieve Duffell, Jaimee Treloar, Kumar (Maharagama Kumara Kashyapa), Liz Gibbons (Perth), Lynne Johnson, Serina Chang and Stephen Clark.



Certificates of Registration were presented to the three people who have been registered as Buddhist Chaplains by the QSA in 2020. To be registered as a chaplain, applicants need to have: completed the Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy or an equivalent qualification; completed 50 hours of volunteer work inside or outside the Buddhist community; hold a current Queensland government Blue Card (working with children check) linked to the QSA; be recommended for registration by a teacher, monk, nun, chaplain, or other senior person in the Buddhist community; sign an agreement that they will abide by all the rules of the QSA including the Code of Conduct for Buddhist Chaplains (see QSA website for details).

The Buddhist Chaplains registered by the QSA in 2020 were: Venerable Lozang Tseten, Venerable Pagnasiri Thero and Ms Emma Cain



Certificates of Appreciation were then presented to organizations, temples and individuals who have offered exceptional service to the community. Anyone can nominate someone for these awards! In 2020 the following nominations were received:

- Chung Tian temple – for exceptional services to the community (nominated by Venerable Tseten)
- Venerable Pannasobhana – for service as Senior Chaplain (nominated by Mr Rahu Sarath-Chandra)
- Ms Georgia Cummings – for volunteer work teaching mindfulness to seniors in Queensland and in the Heart Insight Buddhist group (nominated by Dr Barbara Sullivan)
- Mr Amaranath Jayakody – for work as a Dhamma Teacher with the Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism, the educational arm of the Queensland Sangha association Inc, and more generally for all his work as a volunteer teacher of mindfulness, mostly for the benefit of young people (Nominated by Mr Rahu Sarath-Chandra).
- volunteers working in the Buddhist Education Services for Schools (BESS): As Volunteer Teacher of Buddhism in Schools: Lyna Chen, Petra

Depalo, Dr Anne Nguyen, Cathrin Feltham, Sugee Kannangara, Tracey Chin, WaiJin Loh, Imalka Wickramasekera; As members of the BESS Committee: Nicholas Lee, Cheryl Grampe, Debbie Galvin, Maria Thornton, Karyn Smith; For Web services: Bojan Blatnik (all nominated by Venerable Tseten)



The Convocation closed with prayers, chanting and dedication of merit offered by sangha members, monks and nuns from four different Buddhist traditions.



The event concluded with afternoon tea. Many thanks to Lyna Chen, Surangi Sarath-Chandra and Petra Depalo who provided the catering.

BUDDHIST FORUM (3) PATHWAYS TO NIBBANA SESSIONS 2,3 AND 4 CONCLUDED

Mr. Amaranath Jayakody functioned as the forum leader. As before each program included a talk.

The talks covered the following topics:

Mindfulness

The Four Foundations of Mindfulness

Evolution of Breathing

Clear Comprehension

The ZOOM codes will be issued on request to infoqsa@gmail.com

QSA DHAMMA MAGAZINE CONTINUING

The first number of the QSA Dhamma Magazine was published on 15 September 2020. It carried a few short articles relating to common facts about the harmful behaviour of the mind.

Several congratulatory messages were received. Thank you to everyone who wrote to QSA on the magazine.

The second number was issued on 15 October 2020. The third was issued on 15 November 2020 and the fourth on 15 December.

BUDDHIST CHAPLICY DIVISION OF QSA (BCSB) TAKES OFF WITH FORMALITIES

After eight years of conducting the Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy, the QSA has set up the Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board (BCSB). The members of the board are:

Dr. Barbara Sullivan	Member and Chairperson
Venerable Dr. B. Pannasobhana	Member
Reverend James Wilson	Member
Venerable Miao Lai	Member
Venerable Lozang Tseten	Member
Mr. Arno Hess	Member

There are about fifty registered Buddhist chaplains, only some being active in giving services to the community and to institutions. All registered chaplains together form the Assembly of Buddhist Chaplain (ABC). A meeting of the ABC has not been held to date.

The governing body of ABC will be the Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board (BCSB).

Every member of the BCSB is a senior chaplain. Senior chaplains will help as advisors to chaplains when required or as arranged.

BCSB has already formulated proposals for a theoretical course and a practical course in Hospital Buddhist and Inter-faith Chaplaincy to be delivered next year through the Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism. Buddhist Chaplaincy teachers Alexandra Chuc, Georgia Cummings, and Ben Shepherd will join Dr. Barbara Sullivan in this venture.

QSA IS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER WITH KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLISHING

QSA publishes a Dhamma Magazine, a newsletter on a monthly basis. A few books have been and are in the planning or publication process. Various documents are produced in relation to training courses. There are a few volunteers already helping in this work.

We want someone with training or experience in relation to publishing to join our team. Enhancing the quality of products is one major aim.

THE END OF THE 8 PAGE QSA NEWSLETTER FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 2020

Issued by the President of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

YOU ARE WELCOME TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT

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