

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting for 2016

QUEENSLAND SANGHA ASSOCIATION INC



THE MOST VENERABLE WATTEGAMA DHAMMAWASA NAYAKA THERO

PRESIDENT

QUEENSLAND SANGHA ASSOCIATION

The most Venerable Wattegama Dhammawasa Nayaka Thero is the director and the chief incumbent of Sri Subodharama Buddhist Centre in Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka. He is the chief incumbent and the President of Sri Lankarama Maha Viharaya in Ellen Grove, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and the Chief Sanghanayake of Australia appointed by the Maha Sangha in Sri Lanka.

In 2009 He was also honoured by the Maha Sangha in Sri Lanka for his services to Buddhist communities in many countries. In June 2010 he was elected as the Vice-President of the Australian Sangha Association, the federal level organisation of the Buddhist Maha Sangha in the whole of Australia.

Ordained at a young age, he has spent his entire life cultivating the practice of the teachings of Lord Buddha. Through his noble and genial qualities, tireless efforts and dedicated service to the Buddha Sasana, he has established monasteries throughout the world. He has ordained many monks into the Maha Sangha. He has incessantly worked for the spiritual upliftment of all who came into contact with him, including his pupils, the Sangha in general and members of the lay community.

CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
A	SUMMARY
B	PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE MAIN SCHOOLS OF BUDDHISM
C	EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
D	PUBLICATIONS ON BUDDHISM
E	BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY SERVICES BOARD
EE	GENERAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES
F	DEVELOPMENT (TOWN) PLANNING SERVICES
G	SANGHA WELFARE SERVICES
H	COMMUNITY RELATIONS
I	ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
J	FINACIAL MATTERS
K	RELATIONS WITH OTHER SANGHA ASSOCIATIONS
APPENDIXES	
1	FINAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORT ON ACCOUNTS FOR 2014 OF QSA

THE END

QUEENSLAND SANGHA ASSOCIATION INC

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

FOR THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

SECTION (A) SUMMARY

This is the seventh report of its type. The first report covered the period from inception to 31 December 2009 with brief comments for the first five months of 2010. The second to the sixth report covered the years 2010 to 2014 respectively. This report covering 2015 is intended to be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 29 March 2016.

The main activities in 2015 related to publications and educational services. The Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism continued to provide valuable educational services.

During the year the third delivery of the course in Buddhist Chaplaincy continued and was scheduled to be completed in March 2016.

A major effort was put in to conduct a diploma level course in Buddhist psychology (Abhidhamma). This course was based on the ancient book The Treatise on Abhidhamma by Bhadantha Anuruddha which was a summary of the Abhidhamma Pitaka in Pali.

This course commenced in April 2015 and is planned to be completed in May 2016.

Another major achievement in 2015 was the printing and publication of the book *Buddhist Chaplaincy* written by Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra.

A breakthrough achievement in 2015 was the appointment of Venerable N. Sudhamma as a Buddhist Chaplain in the University of Queensland.

SECTION (B) PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE MAIN SCHOOLS OF BUDDHISM

There were no events in this category in 2015.

SECTION (C) EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

1 SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHISM

The Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism was set up on 1 January 2015 to conduct all educational and training activities of QSA in the way a tertiary institution would.

The two courses mentioned in the summary above were conducted during the year. The senate continued unchanged.

The names of members of the Senate are given in the Siddhartha Institute Prospectus 2016 which can be seen on the QSA website under the menu Educational Services via the list of documents given at the end of the section.

The information pack in regard to the Buddhist Chaplaincy course is also listed at the same point.

The information pack in respect of the Diploma Course in Buddhist Psychology (Abhidhamma) can also be accessed via the list of documents under Educational Services of the QSA website.

The same list gives access to the information pack of the Diploma Course in Dhamma which is in the plans for the future.

The Siddhartha institute of Buddhism will function independently mainly for academic purposes while remaining under the administrative control of QSA in a broad sense.

SECTION (D) PUBLICATIONS ON BUDDHISM

1 BOOK ON BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY

The book was not printed for quite some time due to inadequacy of funds. The Vice-President Venerable S. Sugathasara was successful in obtaining the support of the Body Corporate of the Buddha Educational Foundation in Taiwan to print 1000 copies of the book free of charge. The foundation bore all costs up to delivering the books to the port of Brisbane. This project was completed in November 2015 and the book is being distributed free of charge.

Mr. Kamal Wanigasuriya helped in designing the cover of the Buddhist Chaplaincy book.

An electronic copy of the book was planned to be published in March 2016 and when ready will be on the QSA website under the menu RESOURCES.

2 BUDDHIST PUBLICATIONS BOARD

A Buddhist Publications Board continues unchanged.

SECTION (E) BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY SERVICES BOARD

The Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board remained unchanged during 2015.

Venerable N. Sudhamma one of the Buddhist Chaplains registered with the Queensland Sangha Association Inc. was appointed as a Buddhist Chaplain in the University of Queensland. Venerable Sudhamma is closely associated with the Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery (Brisbane) Inc. in Ellen Grove, Brisbane and is also the secretary of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc. as in 2015.

This Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board will function independently though remaining under the administrative control of the QSA.

SECTION (EE) GENERAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

There were no new services rendered during the year. Small projects were handled by Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra.

SECTION (F) DEVELOPMENT (TOWN) PLANNING (TEMPLE DEVELOPMENT) SERVICES

There were no new projects this year.

SECTION (G) SANGHA WELFARE SERVICES

No progress was made in regard to this matter.

SECTION (H) COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Hardly anything useful resulted from the agreements signed with the ASA (Australian Sangha Association Inc.), and the Buddhist Council of Queensland. However QSA worked closely with the Buddhist Education Services for Schools Inc. as envisaged in the MOU.

SECTION (I) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1 RECOGNITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF QSA AT FEDERAL LEVEL

The Queensland Sangha Association (QSA) is identified by government at the federal level by its Australian Business Number (ABN) which is 56 506 052 172. The street address is 108 Eric Street, Goodna, Queensland 4300. QSA is also registered for GST. Nothing has changed in this respect. However, there is a new federal authority dealing with business numbers. That is the Australian charities and non-profits commission (ACNC). QSA is now in their website.

There is a new requirement to file reports with ACNC every year. The first report in respect of 2014 has been filed.

2 CONSTITUTION

No changes were made to the constitution in 2014.

3 BYE-LAWS FOR QSA

No bye-laws were made in 2014.

4 INCORPORATION OF QSA

The first Annual General Meeting required after incorporation was held on 27 December 2011. From thereon, each year an AGM has been held in the early months of each year. The annual reports are filed under Resources as part of archives.

5 MEMBERSHIP

During the year under review the total of members rose to 71 from 68 in the previous year.

6 MANAGEMENT OF QSA

From inception an elected committee was responsible for the management of the association according to the constitution. The following have served on the committee of management during the period 2015:

President Venerable W. Dhammawasa

Vice-President Venerable S. Sugathasara

Secretary Venerable Bhikshuni N. Sudhamma

Treasurer Venerable I.G.Nanda

Committee Members

Venerable P. Samahita

Venerable P. Kittisupo

Venerable Eido MacIntyre

7 MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The committee of management has held three meetings (bearing numbers 26, 27 and 28) in 2015.

8 VOLUNTEER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSISTING THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The following carried out regular duties and responsibilities delegated to them by the committee of management or office bearers, and they served on a voluntary basis:

Management Consultant

(Helps in administration, legal matters, finance, and the organisation of educational activities and publications, etc., and in relation to consultancy services)

Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra

IT Consultant and Webmaster

Ms. Serene Loy. Towards the end of the year Mr. Samantha Ranasinghe took over as the leading IT consultant. Mr. Nirmal Weerasekera agreed to assist Samantha.

A number of other consultants attached to the groups of experts help as and when required. They are mentioned in the body of the report.

9 IDENTIFICATION OF BUDDHIST MONKS AND NUNS

No progress has been made.

10 WEBSITE OF THE SANGHA ASSOCIATION

The website address is as follows:

www.sanghaqld.org

Temples that do not have their own websites now have the facility to have a section of the QSA website for publicity purposes. No fee is charged for this service.

The directory of monks and nuns is part of the website. Each member of the Sangha may publish his or her profile in the website.

11 GROUP EMAIL SYSTEM SET UP FOR QSA

A group email system has been set up for QSA under the guidance of Mr. Stanley Pinjiang Feng. The address is as follows:

infoqsa@gmail.com

This is a group email system for the use of office bearers.

12 QSA NEWSLETTER

The newsletter continues to be published whenever necessary.

SECTION (J) FINANCIAL MATTERS

1 INCOME AND EXPENSES 2015

The income statement and the balance sheet for the year 2015 are attached.

2 BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE QUEENSLAND SANGHA ASSOCIATION

QSA has its own bank account at Heritage Bank in Forest Lake, Brisbane. The particulars are as follows:

Account number is 1159-2818

BSB number 638-070.

Name: Queensland Sangha Association

Direct donations can be made into this bank account. Please ensure to send an email giving the name and address of the donor, and the donation amount.

The authorized signatories are:

Venerable Yun Ling Chang Dhammavaro, and

Venerable U. Sunanda, Treasurer

A change in 2016 is envisaged.

3 EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX

The Australian Taxation Office has issued a tax file number to QSA and has approved the QSA as exempted from income tax. QSA has also been registered for GST although the turnover is small as yet. Small GST refunds have been obtained from ATO.

QSA does not as yet have an approved deductible gift fund status.

SECTION (K) RELATIONS WITH OTHER SANGHA ORGANISATIONS

1 AUSTRALIAN SANGHA ASSOCIATION (ASA)

QSA maintains good relations with ASA, the federal counterpart.

APPENDIX (1)

QUEENSLAND SANGHA ASSOCIATION INC

C/O BUDDHIST VIHARA OF QUEENSLAND
108 ERIC STREET
GOODNA
QUEENSLAND 4300

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2015

According to section 58 of the Associations Incorporation Act in Queensland, the Queensland Sangha Association Inc. is a level three association as its annual revenue is less than \$ 20,000 and its current assets are less than \$ 20,000. Section 59 B of the act requires the President or Treasurer to make a statement certifying the final accounts of the association and present it at the annual general meeting.

In terms of section 59 B (2) we certify that the association keeps financial records in a way that properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

All source documents and the ledger have been properly maintained. The attached Income Statement for the year 2014 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014 reflect the true financial position of the association according these records.

There is no cash in hand and there is a balance in the operating account at the Heritage Building Society branch at Forest Lake.

QSA is not a Deductible Gift Fund Recipient approved by the Taxation Office. QSA does not have any insurance policy.

The source documents have been maintained by the treasurer Venerable U Sunanda. The ledger and final accounts have been produced by Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra, a member of the Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) association of Australia at the request of the treasurer.

This statement is made and signed by:

Venerable I.G.Nanda

(Treasurer)

Date: 13 March 2016

Venerable W.Dhammawasa

(President)

Date: 13 March 2016

[The income statement and balance sheet are given below separately]