



QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Buddhist Sangha

Published by the Queensland Sangha Association Inc

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

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25 April 2020

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SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA SELECTED FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

An intelligent man even though he associates with a wise man only for a moment, quickly understands the Dhamma, just as the tongue knows the taste of the soup.

(Dhammapada stanza 65)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF QSA HELD ON 18 APRIL 2020 USING INTERNET

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc was held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 18 April 2020. In view of the rules relating to the covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held using the communication system called ZOOM with the help of email documents shared by all.

The novel procedure had been approved by the committee of management on 4 April 2020. The meeting was more effective than face to face meetings held in previous years.

The standard agenda used in the previous years was used again. The key points in the minutes are set out below:

Reverend James Wilson the president presided. The minutes of the 10th annual general meeting were approved.

The Report on Activities (annual report) for 2019 had been circulated by email three weeks prior to this meeting and was accepted by members. Tanuja Sarath-Chandra described the important sections of the report, going through it page by page using the technique of shared documents.

The report also included the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for 2019 and the audit report. The accounts had been prepared by a qualified accountant (Mr. Sanjeewa Morawaka) in his capacity as Executive Treasurer) and approved

As per the rules in the Associations Incorporation Act, the Queensland Sangha Association Inc continued to be in Level 3 both turnover and wealth being less than \$20,000.

The association did not have an insurance cover as it held no property and as there were no public liability issues.

The following were elected as members of the Committee of Management:

President: Reverend James Wilson
Resident Priest in the Jodoshu (Pure Land) Temple in Ashgrove, Brisbane, Queensland

Vice-President: Venerable Chonlatish Chanhorm
Abbot of Wat Thai Buddharam, in Forestdale, Logan City, Queensland

Secretary: Venerable Sitinamaluwe Sugathasara
Chief Resident Monk, Queensland Buddhist Vihara, Goodna, Ipswich, Queensland

Treasurer: Venerable Hui Chyuan (Michael Jeng)
Resident Monk, Bodhi Chan Meditation Centre, Springvale, Logan City, Queensland

Committee Members:

Mr. Sanjeewa Morawaka
Lay Supporter, Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery, Ellen Grove, Brisbane, Queensland

Mrs. Lyna Chen
Lay Supporter, Chung Tian Temple, Priestdale, Logan City, Queensland

Mrs. Aruni Pradeepika Arachhige
Lay Supporter, Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery, Ellen Grove, Brisbane, Queensland

The president thanked everyone for their support during the year. He had a special word of thanks for all the lay supporters who functioned as executives in various capacities, doing a great deal of hard work with devotion and respect towards the Sangha.

THE FIFTH QUEENSLAND BUDDHIST CONVOCATION

The fifth Queensland Buddhist Convocation will be held at 2.30 p.m. on 28 Saturday in November 2020.

BUDDHA BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCES-2020

In view of the prevailing restrictions due to the corona problem, this year the Commemoration of the Birthday of the Buddha, will need to be different. Devotees are requested to observe the day from home. The following program is suggested.

PLACE

In your home, at a convenient spot

DATE 10 May 2020

TIME 6 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. (or a period convenient to you)

SUGGESTED PROGRAM

- A If you are used to a particular program you can follow it; for example in some cultures 8 Precepts are observed
- B Alternatively you can choose to follow the program set out below:
- 1 Observe complete silence or partial silence
 - 2 Engage in an exercise such as Walking. Be mindful of the heels touching the ground, as often as possible. You can add cleaning the house or garden, to this practice
 - 3 Rest in a comfortable position for say 30 minutes. Use this time to extend your goodwill towards all who need your compassion. This year we can focus on those who are experiencing illness or hardship due to the Covid-19 virus.

- 4 Engage in any simple activity such as preparing food, serving food or in taking food, washing plates, wiping plates, always keeping your mind on the exact thing you are currently doing.
- 5 Listen to a teaching of the Buddha by way of a lecture or participation in a discussion.
- 6 Rest in a reclining position when you feel tired or sleepy.
- 7 Continue with these practices throughout the day or as long as you can without undue agitation.

VESAK DHAMMA FORUM (1) ON ZOOM

PLACE In your home, at a convenient spot

DATE Sunday 17 May 2020

TIME 9 am to 3pm

PROGRAM (ON ZOOM)

PROGRAM HOSTED BY: Tanuja Sarath-Chandra

The program consists of 4 sessions. You can attend those of interest to you. Each session will consist of 3 speakers and those attending can ask questions after the talks. Each session will take less than 1 hour in total.

~ MORNING PROGRAM ~

9.00 – 10:00 am

INTRODUCTION by the president of QSA, Rev. James Wilson

SESSION (A) Significance of Buddha's Birthday commemorations

Chair: Venerable Lozang Tseten

10:00 – 11:00 am

SESSION (B) Metta meditation extending loving kindness and compassion to all beings who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus

Chair: Venerable Hui Chyuan

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

~ AFTERNOON PROGRAM ~

1:00 – 2:00 pm

SESSION (C) Calming (Samatha) meditation

Chair: Mr. Arno Hess

2:00 – 3:00 pm

SESSION (D) Insight (Vipassana) meditation

Chair: Dr. Jack Wicks

Please register your interest in attending Forum (1) by sending a short email to QSA via infoqsa@gmail.com

You will then be given an access code to enter the forum. You can enter a little before each session.

The speakers at the forum will be nuns and monks from different Buddhist traditions as well as lay practitioners. If you would like to speak, there are spots available. Please contact Rahu on infoqsa@gmail.com

THE AUSTRALIAN SANGHA ASSOCIATION TAKES A STAND ON ABUSE IN BUDDHISM

In response to cases of abuse that have occurred in Buddhism in Australia, the Australian Sangha Association has taken a firm stance and is encouraging other groups to follow suit.

In December, Joanne McCarthy -- who won the Gold Walkley award for exposing the Catholic Church in Australia -- wrote this piece:
<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6532760/dark-behind-the-mindfulness-how-a-buddhist-guru-abused-followers-on-the-hunters-doorstep/>

In light of the on-going problem of abuse in Buddhism in Australia, the Australian Sangha Association released a video statement in which they endorse the *Oath Against Harm in the Practice of the Dharma*:
<https://youtu.be/3JnRHrsd2gE>

This oath is a re-affirmation of non-harming in the student-teacher relationship and in Dharma organisations. It was developed by the Alliance for Buddhist Ethics in consultation with a number of Buddhist teachers, lamas, heads of Buddhist organisations, and Buddhist abuse survivor groups.

The ASA encourages other groups to take a similar stand against abuse in Buddhism.

THE END OF THE 7 PAGE QSA NEWSLETTER FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2020

Issued by the President of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

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TO A FRIEND WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT**

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