



QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Buddhist Sangha

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SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA SELECTED FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

A fool, even though he is associated with a wise man all his life, does not understand the Dhamma, just as a spoon does not know the taste of soup.

(Dhammapada stanza 64)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF QSA ON 18 APRIL 2020 AT GOONAIN

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc will be held at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday 18 April 2020 at the Buddhist Vihara of Queensland, 108 Eric Street, Goodna, Ipswich, Queensland 4300. Please contact the secretary for more information.

THE FOURTH QUEENSLAND BUDDHIST CONVOCATION

The convocation was held on 24 November. The fifth convocation will be held in November 2020.

BUDDHIST VIHARA OF QUEENSLAND TAKES A NEW LOOK AND IS APPROVED AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP

After many years of hard work, the Buddhist Vihara of Queensland in Goodna, Ipswich, Queensland was finally approved by the government as a place of worship.

Some photographs of the opening ceremony are given below. Anastacia Palazschuk, Premier of Queensland opened the development in the presence of a large gathering of devotees, monks, nuns and dignitaries.

A brief history of the temple is given after the photos.

Milestones of the development project are listed at the end of this article.



The Bodhi Tree Compound with the 28 Buddha statues right round. It is a Serene and beautiful area in the temple.

Devotees worship the Buddha at this shrine and many find this compound to be an ideal place for outdoor meditation.



The Premier cuts the ribbon to declare open the Development. On the left is Venerable S.Sugathasara the Chief Incumbent of the Temple who led the temple association from 1998 and the development effort in recent years

Blessings in Vietnamese and in Pali were conducted by the monks and nuns while the ribbon was cut. A conch-shell blower and traditional Sri Lankan drummers performed at the ceremony. The drummers formed part of the procession to the reliquary at the top of the hill.



The procession conducting the members of the Buddhist Sangha and dignitaries proceeds to the hill-top compound. The dome shaped Reliquary can be seen in the background. On the left is one of the walls of the second residential building.



Mr. Nalin Nettikumara, Vice-President of the temple association conducting the Premier of Queensland Anastacia Palaszczuk, Mr. Milton Dick Federal Member of Parliament for Blair, Mr. Lance McCallum from Bundamba and other dignitaries after offering flowers at the reliquary (stupa) the main place of worship at the Temple. Mr. Anton Swan, honorary consul for Sri Lanka in Queensland was in the group (top right hand corner).



The Premier, Mr. Milton Dick, Mr. Lance McCallum and other dignitaries placing offerings at the Bodhi Tree.



The Premier in conversation with the President and Chief Incumbent of the Temple Venerable Sitinamaluwe Sugathasa. The monk has been the president of the temple association for 22 years. He has contributed immensely to teaching Buddhism. He holds a Masters degree in Buddhism. He was closely connected to the Bhikkhu Centre in Maharagama, Sri Lanka before coming to Australia.



The Premier addressing the gathering of devotees. The premier recalled with gratitude the immense work done by the temple during the 2011 floods to help the community in the recovery process.

The premier's father Mr. Henry Palaszczuk is in the picture. He was a minister in a previous government.



Mr. Nalin Nettikumara, Vice President of the Temple Association addressing the gathering in the presence of a large group of Monks, Nuns and devotees. The premier and Mr. Milton Dick are at the centre. On the left is a large group of monks and nuns.



At the end of the ceremonies a lion dance was presented. The Stupa is at the top right of the picture.

THE HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE

In 1998 a small group led by the late Gangodawila Soma Thero, the Buddhist Vihara of Queensland was established at 37 Pannard Road, Darra, Brisbane. It was moved to number 35 on the same street in 1999. In 2001 the temple was moved to Dhammadinna House in Wacol, Brisbane.

In 2002 Most Venerable Madihe Pannasiha Maha Thero, the President of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya the largest lineage of monks in Sri Lanka, visited the temple. He was then 89 years old.

2006 marked an important milestone in the history of the temple. The property at Wacol was sold and a 2.5 acre property at 108 Eric Street, Goodna, Ipswich, Queensland was purchased. A beautiful well-established building became the residence for monks. It was a partly two-story structure with all necessary facilities.

The 25-year old Bodhi tree was moved from Wacol to the new premises. The tree had been grown from a seed originally from Bodh Gaya where the Buddha attained enlightenment. It was about 40 cm foot tall when it was brought to Brisbane from a nursery in the forest monastery in Wiseman's Ferry, NSW.

In 2013, a podium was built around the Bodhi Tree. The statues of 28 past Buddhas designed and sculptured by Venerable Hingurakgoda Vibhavi Thero were placed around the Bodhi Tree providing a serene and imposing atmosphere.

Located at the top of the hill the reliquary (Stupa) enshrining Buddha Relics was built in 2013. A major contribution by one dayaka family enabled this major construction.

Throughout the period the monks with the help of lay supporters continued to provide services to the community. These included annual Robes Ceremonies and a Vesak celebration with the help of the Brisbane City Council. The Dhamma School for children and Sil programs were conducted regularly.

The Chief Monk was busy every day providing various essential services to the community.

THE STORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015 the adjoining property at 110 Eric Street was purchased for the temple. This paved the way for major development plans.

A development committee was set up consisting of supporters specializing in various fields of knowledge to present an initial general plan and environmental report seeking local government approval for a place of worship. Initial conditional approval was secured after 6 months of research and negotiations with the city council.

Later the current development effort commenced. A civil engineer, an architect and a surveyor, all volunteers focused on the practical aspects of the planned development. Final approval for a development program consisting of three stages of development was obtained in January 2017. A project control group with a dedicated manager was appointed. This team proceeded with all aspects of design and construction completing Stage 1 in 2020. The group was guided by its devoted leader Mr. Mahinda Gunawardena. A special award was made to him at the opening ceremony in recognition of his services.

Arrangements were made with a bank for financing the project. After a tender process a contract was awarded in August 2019. Site preparation commenced on 7 September 2019 after religious ceremonies.

One of the difficult tasks faced by the team was the construction of underground storm water tanks. These are not visible now as the entrance road now runs over the tanks. The construction work was completed in January 2020. Car parks have been built. The heavy sandstone rock embankments have become a new feature of the development.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The meditation hall will be built sometime in the future. It will be on the right side of the entry road.

**THE END OF THE 14 PAGE QSA NEWSLETTER FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY
TO MARCH 2020**

Issued by the President of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

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