

QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Sangha

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QSA WEBSITE www.sanghaql.org

EMAIL ADDRESS

infoqsa@gmail.com

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SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA

'He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me', in those who harbour such thoughts, hatred is not appeased.

'He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me', in those who do not harbour such thoughts, hatred is appeased.

Dhammapada 3

Hatred never ceases through hatred in this world; through love alone hatred ceases. This is an eternal truth.

Dhammapada 4

PRESIDENT ON PILGRIMAGE TO TEMPLES

The president of QSA Reverend James Wilson is proceeding with the building relationships and rapport with individual temples and the members of the Sangha by visiting them and

discussing matters of common interest. The article on the Bodhi Chan Meditation Center in Springwood is a sequel to one of his recent pilgrimages.

BODHI CHAN MEDITATION CENTER IN SPRINGWOOD

In July, on a sunny winter's day I visited the Bodhi Chan Meditation Center. It was established in 2012 and is situated in a leafy part of Springwood (223 Dennis Rd, Springwood, Queensland 4127).

The first thing I noticed when passing through the gate were the wallabies and the tall Gum Trees. Going further I came to the main building which is framed by huge outcrops of black sandstone on the hill behind. This natural bush setting is very conducive to meditation and here and there amongst the trees are small levelled spaces. In these spaces a small tent and a chair are provided to allow people to meditate quietly and in isolation.

As well as meditation, Venerable Hui Chyuan, the resident monk, offers classes in Buddhism and Tai Chi. These classes are held every Saturday and are conducted in English. On Fridays the Dharma talk is in Chinese. In this way, Venerable Hui Chyuan hopes to promote Buddhism to Chinese and non-Chinese alike.

In addition, while his teachings follow the Chan tradition he presents Buddhism in a non-sectarian way. His ultimate objective is "to foster good health, ethical living, mindfulness, stillness, kindness, insight and freedom of the heart".

According to Ven Hui Chyuan Bodhi Chan is dedicated to the flourishing of the Dharma for the benefit of individuals and societies for a long time to come and he looks forward to further developing its programmes and facilities to this end.

For further information about the Bodhi Chan Meditation Center you can call 07 3808 5661 or email info@bodhichan.com or go to their homepage <http://bodhichan.weebly.com>

Bodhi Chan Meditation Center



Ven Hui Chyuan in the Meditation Hall



Meditation spaces amongst trees with tent and a chair



FOURTH DELIVERY OF BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY COURSE

(Developing peace within and empowering others to achieve peace)

The fifth session of this course is planned for Saturday 13 August 2016 and will be held at the Sri Lanka temple at 114 Considine Street, Ellen Grove, Brisbane or at another venue in Forest Lake. The face to face class and the tele-conference will both be held at the same time beginning at 9.30 a.m. and finishing around noon.

Confirmations have been sent to registered participants.

Answers to assignments can be sent to infoqsa@gmail.com and will be assessed by Venerable Lozang Drolkar, a member of the Buddhist Chaplaincy Board of QSA for assessment. She was educated at the Griffith University in Brisbane and at the Chenrezig Buddhist centre in Eudlo.

The text book is in our website under 'Resources' or you can get a hard copy of the book free of charge by sending an email to QSA.

PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN ANNUAL BUDDHIST CONVOCATION OF QUEENSLAND

INTRODUCTION

Since the setting up of the Chinese Temple in Breakfast Creek about forty years ago, a series of Buddhist organisations, mostly temples, monasteries, nunneries and Buddhist associations have been set up in Queensland. Central service organisations such as the Buddhist Council of Queensland (1998), the Buddhist Education Services for Schools (BESS) (2006) and the Queensland Sangha Association (2007) were set up as a necessary sequel.

Many volunteer lay persons have made major sacrifices in establishing these organisations, especially the temples. Because of the establishment of these facilities, many monks and nuns have begun to reside in these institutions and serve the community for so many years.

However no attempt has been made to give appropriate recognition to any of these individuals. It is expected that an annual Buddhist convocation and public appreciation would provide an impetus to all Buddhist communities and encourage future generations to render even more voluntary and meritorious services.

Such an event can be organised with political and government participation centrally once per year and extended to each institution with the leadership of the QSA, when those institutions are interested and capable to do so.

The example set up in Queensland is likely to be followed in other states and territories for the good of the Buddhist dispensation in Australia.

HOW A BUDDHIST CONVOCATION CAN BE HELD

1 The central organisations such as QSA, BCQ, and BESS can meet and draw up a method of instituting a common Buddhist convocation. For example a suitable venue and time for a Buddhist gathering of an estimated 20 monks and nuns and say 50 lay people from all Buddhist centres and all the central service organisations can be selected. When publicity is given if larger numbers

are attending the venue might have to be changed to suit numbers. October first week is considered to be a suitable time for a convocation day before Theravada temples get busy with the annual robes ceremonies.

2 Government officials and a suitable political figure can be invited as honoured guests. All Buddhist associations, temples etc. need to be invited.

3 All members of the sangha and all lay persons recommended by each institution can be given a document of honour or a memento for their services. In addition valuable presents also can be given if that is feasible.

4 Publicity through the media needs to be organised to the extent possible. Publicity can also be organised by the central service organisations using their mailing lists and websites.

HOW A BUDDHIST CONVOCATION CAN BE EXTENDED TO ALL TEMPLES

1 Individual associations may emulate the event and a similar event of their own can be held to coincide with a major event in that association. For example a temple may conduct an honours day to coincide with (a) a January 1 festival (b) a traditional new-year festival, (c) a Vesak festival (d) a robes giving festival or such other festivals when large numbers of people gather together.

2 QSA may participate in such functions when invited by the individual associations.

[This informal proposal has been made by a reader for consideration by other readers. The ideas of all readers will be placed before the committee of management of QSA. Please respond without delay.]

BESS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO TEACH BUDDHISM IN SCHOOLS

More volunteers are needed to visit schools to teach Buddhism. Children are waiting for you. They want to study Buddhism but there is no one to teach them in many schools. If you can spare some of your time, it would make them so happy. Please take an active part in the nurturing of the Buddhist spirit in our children.

Please contact : Lyna Chen via infobess@gmail.com

QSA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

Queensland Sangha Association Inc depends entirely on time donated by volunteers for its activities and administration as the Sangha are committed to full time practice and may not be having administrative skills required. Your help would be most welcome in the following areas.

SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHISM (QSA)

Dhamma Research Supervisors

Dhamma Research Advisers

QSA ADMINISTRATION

Executive Secretary, Executive Treasurer (responsible for accounting and reporting to treasurer)

Newsletter Editor (planning, compiling and editing)

Mail Manager (Mostly for group email system, maintenance and forwarding emails)

Website Writer (to communicate with the web master for changes)

[Please indicate your interest via infoqsa@gmail.com]

DONATIONS TO QSA

Donations to QSA can be made by direct credit to the bank account detailed below:

Name of account

Queensland Sangha Association Inc,

Account 1159 2818 S21

BSB 638-070

Heritage Bank, Forest Lake Shopping Centre, Forest Lake

Once a deposit is made please inform QSA by email

CHEQUES CAN BE POSTED TO:

Queensland Sangha Association Inc

108 Eric Street, Goodna, Queensland 4300

END OF THE 9-PAGE QSA NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2016

Compiled by Rahu Sarath-Chandra

Issued by the president of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

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

THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOT FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION BUT FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS OF QSA,
SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS. PAST COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE PLACED IN THE CURRENT PAGE OF THE
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