

Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools Newsletter No. 4

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The Programme makes available Buddhist Religious
Instruction to children in state primary schools.

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11 classes in 6 schools

Buddhist Religious Instruction is now being offered at 6 schools, in 11 classes. The programme has grown considerably in the past year. We continue to receive very positive feedback from the children, their mainstream teachers and parents.

"Thank you, Judith"

Judith MacDonald, who initiated, planned and got the Buddhist Religious Instruction in Schools programme off the ground, trained several rounds of teachers, developed the curriculum and gave so much of herself towards the Buddhist education of children in schools, has decided to take a break from it. The results of Judith's efforts will be felt through the children benefiting from them for years to come! The Programme and everyone involved thank Judith for her generosity of spirit and sharing of expertise, and look forward to her involvement in an advisory capacity.

We are looking for a dedicated Buddhist person to take over as convenor of the programme. Judith will continue with the training of volunteer teachers.

Perpetual Funding

The Programme successfully applied for a grant from Perpetual Trustees for the year 2005. This has enabled us to fund an Education Coordinator and some materials for teaching, as well as some teaching resources. We hope to re-apply for another two years' funding, which would enable the Education Officer to continue her excellent work on the programme.

Education Officer's Research

Participants in the Buddhist Council of Victoria's Education in Primary Schools Programme in collaboration with a research team from the School of Education at Victoria University wish to research the development, implementation and evaluation of Buddhist Religious Instruction classes in three Victorian primary schools to explore ways in which values might be taught in schools.

Values taught in the Buddhist classes are closely allied to those outlined in the National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools. These classes use life stories from the Buddha and brief and simple meditations to encourage students to take responsibility for their actions and develop confidence to act with kindness and concern for others.

Teacher Training Round 4

The 4th round of training of volunteer teachers will take place in October at the Kagyu Evam Buddhist Institute, which very generously offered their premises. There is demand from several new schools for Buddhist Religious Instruction in 2006, and we may be able to staff them with the new trained teachers.

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

We are pleased to announce that gifts and donations made to the BCV RI fund above \$2 are tax deductible. If you or your organisation wish to donate towards the programme's growth, please make cheques or money orders payable to

BCV RI Fund and mail to:

Buddhist Council of Victoria RI Programme, PO Box 6104, FOOTSCRAY WEST
VIC 3012

Community Involvement and Plays

Our teachers and their students continue to bring the Dhamma to life and involve themselves in the school communities. Students at Princes Hill have been performing a play on the Four Sights, which has been both tender and funny; the Buddhist classes at Essex Heights joined the procession and festivities at the school's Multicultural Day; and the students at Auburn South are to be photographed meditating for inclusion in the school's promotional material.

Our Website

Please visit our website at www.bcvic.org.au for the following:

- * Information on the programme
- * Application form for volunteer teachers
- * Jataka Tales
- * Deductible Gift Donation forms

For More Information:

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