

YOUR PARTICIPATION

The Buddhist Council of Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation. The activities of the Council can be fulfilled through your support and participation in the following:

- If you are a temple organisation consider joining the council as a **Member**. The cost of Membership is \$55.00. Access our website for further information and Membership details.
- If you are an individual you can become a **Friend** of the Council. The cost of becoming a Friend is \$27.50. Access our website for further information and membership details.
- Becoming a **Volunteer Teacher** in the Education Program. Access our website for further information or email us at educationinfo@bcvic.org.au
- Becoming a **Volunteer Prison Chaplain**. Access our website for further information or send an email to secretary@bcvic.org.au
- Make a donation to support the activities of the Council. Cheques can be made out to Buddhist Council of Victoria and mailed to The Treasurer, Buddhist Council of Victoria, P.O. Box 6104, Footscray West Vic 3012.

Your participation assists in the bringing of Dharma to the people of Victoria. The Gift of the Dharma (Truth) exceeds all other gifts.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Council is open to Buddhist temples, groups and organisations operating in Victoria and costs \$55. Friend's membership is open to individual Buddhists who support the aims of the Council and costs \$27.50.

HISTORY

The Buddhist Council of Victoria came into being in 1996 when representatives of Buddhist traditions joined together in a common cause.

The Buddhist Council of Victoria is a representative body that acts on behalf of Buddhists in the Australian state of Victoria. It is actively engaged in representing the needs of Buddhists to all levels of government, provides speakers for interfaith dialogue and works widely with the community.

It has approximately 40 member temples and has been in operation since 1995. The Committee is elected annually from delegates from the member temples. Principal activities including the introduction of Buddhist education into primary schools and chaplaincy for Buddhist prisoners. We also produced a booklet on palliative care, Buddhist Care for the Dying.

CONTACTS

Buddhist Council of Victoria
P.O. Box 6104
Footscray West VIC 3012
AUSTRALIA

Web: www.bcvic.org.au
Email: chair@bcvic.org.au



BUDDHIST COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA, INC
ABN 13 436 635 535



BRINGING THE
GIFT OF DHARMA
TO THE PEOPLE
OF VICTORIA



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FEATURE EVENTS

With the support of various governmental bodies and generous donations by individuals the Council held the following events:

- **2007: Buddha 2550 At The Town Hall** – A week long event when the people of Victoria had the opportunity to view a beautiful array of Buddha images from all parts of the world, attend curatorial tours, lectures and seminars.
- **2008: The first Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival** was held over the week of 27 October to 2 November 2008, at ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) at Federation Square. Victorians were treated to a feast of eight Buddhist films from six countries, four of which were Australian premiere screenings. Excellent participation invites a second festival in the near future.
- **2008:** on 14 November, many hours of hard work by Judith Macdonald, Sue Smith and Serena Seah with a generous grant by the Victorian Multicultural Commission resulted in the curriculum manual **Discovering Buddha** being launched by Minister Maxine Moran at Waverley Primary School. For further information and to purchase a copy of the manual please access our website www.bcvic.org.au.
- **2009:** Victoria's Buddhist community united on Saturday 28 March, to perform a **Bushfires Survivors' Healing Service** at the Ru Yi temple in Kinglake West. The event was organised by Ven. Chi Kwang Sunim, the Buddhist Council of Victoria and Sophie from Ru Yi Temple. The date was considered auspicious as it was the 49th day after Black Saturday, 7 February 2009. According to Buddhist belief, the 49th day is the day when those who died will go to a new life. This event brought together monks, nuns and lay people from the Vietnamese, Chinese, Tibetan, Korean, Laotian, Cambodian and Burmese traditions to assist in the ceremony.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To serve as the representative organisation for Buddhist temples, groups and organisations in Victoria.
- To liaise with local, State, and Commonwealth Government departments on behalf of its members.
- To keep a watchful eye and to take appropriate action in the cases of prejudice, misinformation, disadvantage and insult to member organisations or to Buddhism in general.
- To assist in the resolution of disputes between member organisations, if mutually invited, by arranging independent mediation.
- To foster a spirit of fellowship, co-operation, friendship and goodwill between all Buddhist groups in Victoria.
- To facilitate the exchange of information and resources between members regarding their respective activities.
- To serve as a forum for the discussion of matters of common interest to members.
- To co-operate with other religious groups, to work for peace and harmony through inter-religious co-operation.
- To facilitate the representation of Buddhism and Buddhist groups in inter-religious organisations and activities.
- To support and promote the development of social welfare activities.
- To encourage the development and dissemination of education resources on Buddhism in Victoria.
- To conduct training programs on Buddhist youth leadership and community service.
- To facilitate community service as required.
- To organise and/or sponsor public talks, forums and seminars on Buddhism and other related subjects.
- To produce publications on Buddhism.
- To direct and channel media and other enquiries to the relevant members and sources of information.
- To express the Buddhist perspective on social and ethical matters.
- To develop a Buddhist library and resource centre.

ACTIVITIES

- **The Education Project** brings Buddhist religious instruction to state primary schools. Volunteer teachers are trained by the Project and give weekly classes in schools. Contact: educationinfo@bcvic.org.au
- **Prison Chaplaincy:** The BCV has been running a program of chaplaincy to Buddhist prisoners since 2002. In that year the BCV was approached by CORE, the public correctional organization, to initiate the service.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** The BCV can provide speakers from our member temples. All are committed to assisting the development of a happier community informed by understanding and compassion.
- **Palliative Care:** In 2004 the BCV, in association with the Yun Yang Temple and the Victorian Multicultural Commission, published the booklet, **Buddhist Care for the Dying** which was distributed free to nursing homes, prisons and hospitals.
- **Representation** of the interests of the Buddhist community to all levels of government and the media.



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