



BUDDHIST COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA, INC



Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools

NEWSLETTER II

Includes Buddhist Council of Victoria News: Sharing the Gift of Dharma with Victorians

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From the Editor's Desk

We are back on track this year with an Autumn copy of the newsletter. There is change in format as we are including other news from the Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV). This will bring you information on a wider range of activities. A replacement is still needed to take over my role as editor. If you would like to be an editor, or if you have feedback or would like to contribute an article please contact the Editor, Peggy Page, on peggy.page@bcvic.org.au.

Enjoy reading, please excuse any errors and may you be well and happy.

Peggy Page, Editor

Goodbye and Welcome

The Buddha taught that all things in this world are not permanent. After almost five years with the BEVS program Sue Smith, our education officer, left the program to pursue other activities. Sue contributed much to the program and collaborated with Judith Macdonald and Serena Seah to produce the curriculum manual – *Discovering Buddha*. The committee thanks Sue for all her work and wishes her great success and joy in her new endeavours.



The program is very fortunate to have Helen Ponder come on board to replace Sue. Helen brings with her years of experience as a teacher as well as experience as a volunteer teacher with the program. The committee extends a warm welcome to Helen and wishes her many years of success and joy with the program.

News From the Education Committee

I like to welcome and introduce to the readers of the Education Newsletter the Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV). The Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools (BEVS) is a program under the BCV. For more information about BCV visit www.bcvic.org.au. BEVS is supported in its operation by funds provided by BCV through their fund raising events, generous donations by governmental agencies for its projects and individual donors.

The committee of BCV and BEVS have agreed to have a joint newsletter. This will allow us to remove the duplication of having two newsletters, two mail outs and the time required to produce the newsletters. The combination of the two newsletters will increase the information available to our readers.

The End-of-year Lunch

On 22 November 2008, BEVS committee had its end of year lunch. We had the company of the chairperson of BCV Laura Chan. Usually, it is an opportunity for the committee to thank the volunteer teachers for their contribution to the program, however, the teachers were not able to join us on that occasion. The committee wishes to have an occasion in 2009 where we could meet and thank in person for the work that you do. Please suggest to Helen the time, day and type of event that will suit you best. It is not too early to start planning.

A big thank you to the Committee – Man Yau, Eileen, Kathy, Dhammika and Laila and a big, big thank you to our wonderful volunteer teachers. Saddhu! Saddhu! Saddhu!

Peggy Page, Chair, BCV Education Committee

Achievements

The Highlight for the year is the completion of the curriculum manual – *Discovering Buddha* – by Sue Smith, Judith Macdonald and Serena Seah. There was an official launch on 14 November 2008 by Minister Maxine Moran at the Waverley Primary School. The manual, a much awaited document, will provide our volunteer teachers with ideas, teachings and is a valuable resource for the classes. As Sue Smith wrote in the 10th edition of the newsletter “ The new curriculum has plenty to do, filled with stories, plays and craft activities and meditations that have worked best for us. It is a flexible curriculum where the teacher will be free to choose the lessons they think most appropriate for the section”. Please access our website www.bcvic.org.au for further information and purchasing the manual.



*Pictures this page:
Top: Minister Maxine Moran*

Centre: Discovering Buddha, the BCV's new curriculum manual

Bottom Right: Representatives from Waverley Primary School talk about their experience with meditation

Bottom Left: Judith Macdonald, Sue Smith and Serena Seah



From the Chair

My first experience as Chair of BCV was in 2006 for one year. I returned to the position of Chair in 2008 and this is my second year for the 2nd term. The volunteers working for the BCV and its various programs have achieved much during my time as chair. In 2008 we had a very successful film festival with Melbournians asking for a repeat of the film festival and the completion and launch of the curriculum manual. 2009 started off with the unfortunate event of the bushfires and through the hard work and excellent organisation of Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim a Bushfires Survivors' Healing Ceremony was held at Kinglake.

The ongoing activities of education in schools has also see the expansion of the program into more schools and the Prison Chaplaincy continues its work of bringing the Dharma to people who are in an unfortunate situation.

I thank everyone who has directly or indirectly contributed to the success of all the events and activities. Without your dedication and commitment to bringing the Dharma to Victorians we will not have achieved what we have achieved today. We will continue to work together to bring the Gift of Dharma to Victorians.

Laura Chan, Chair



Peggy Page (Education Convenor), Laura Chan (Chair), Venerable Phuoc Tan and Petr (Secretary BCV) at the opening of the Yun Yang Temple.

DONATIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

Council Membership 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.

MORE INFORMATION



BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF VICTORIA, INC

A Newsletter of:
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OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer Teaching
Email educationinfo@bcvic.org.au
- Volunteer Prison Chaplaincy
Email secretary@bcvic.org.au

BCV NEWS

Melbourne

Buddhist Film Festival

www.melbournebfff.com

Mon 27 Oct-

Sun 2 Nov 2008

MBFF



The Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival

Presented by the Buddhist Council of Victoria, 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.

A feast of eight Buddhist films from six countries were screened, four of which were Australian premiere screenings. The films were: *The Cup*, *Buddha's Lost Children*, *How to Cook Your Life*, *Peace Is Every Step*, *Spring Summer Autumn Winter...Spring*, *Daughters of Wisdom*, *A Zen Life* and *Travelers and Magicians*.

To shed more insight to each film, each screening was conducted by a speaker from the Buddhist Community followed by Q&A from the audience. During the Festival, a traditional *Japanese Tea Ceremony* was presented by the Uransenke Association in Melbourne. The event was very well received.

The *Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival* was a great success in spreading the Dharma, and raising much needed funds for the Education Program and Chaplaincy program of the Buddhist Council of Victoria.

Special thanks to the support of Victorian Multicultural Commission, ACMI, IBFF (International Buddhist Film Festival), Lam Brothers, Wilson Ching, Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils and Carey Rohrlach.

Linda Marrett

The Parliament of World Religions

Join the World's Largest Interfaith Event!

All registered participants attending the 2009 Parliament will be given the opportunity to encounter the vast and rich diversity of the world's religious and spiritual traditions and to take part in over 500 events.

Opportunities to Get Involved

- **Volunteer** – serve as a member of the support staff before and during the Parliament.
- **Outreach** – promote the Parliament in your community.
- **Hospitality** – provide accommodations for participants requesting "home stays" in Melbourne, Australia during the Parliament.
- **Sponsorship** – donate a full or partial registration, or purchase space in our program book.
- **Display an Exhibit** to share your organization with participants.
- **Host a Pre-Parliament Event** and help your city join the Council's Partner.
- **Register to Participate** in the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia. Groups of ten or more are eligible to receive a 10% discount in their registration to attend the Parliament. This is in addition to any applicable student, seniors or concession discounts.
- **Bring a group of students** through a course that leads up to the Parliament.

You may have other ideas of how you'd like to contribute. Please feel free to send an email to secretary@bcvic.org.au about how you would like to be involved.

Petr Svoboda, BCV Secretary representing BCV on the organising board for the PWR

New volunteer teachers needed

The education program cannot exist without volunteer teachers. The "Gift of the Dharma" that teachers bring to the children cannot be measured. The committee of BCV and the education committee value the time and dedication that the teachers give to the education program.

We are always looking for new volunteer teachers to meet existing needs and ongoing demand. If you would like to volunteer you can email: rednoph@hotmail.com or call 0425 794 023. If you know of someone who may be interested please pass this information on. The next round of training is in October 2009.

Peggy Page
Chair, BCV Education Committee.

Welcome to 2009

We began the year with a very special Teacher Training Workshop.

New volunteer teachers and present volunteer teachers got together at Tara Institute in Brighton. Sue Smith, one of the authors of our beautiful new curriculum, introduced us all to its merits and each teacher was given a copy of *Discovering Buddha* to take home. It is your essential document in the preparation of classes.

The shared lunch was a treat as was playing *The Wisdom Game*. Thank you for your attendance (especially those who travelled from country areas) and contributions to such a successful day.

The new volunteer teachers are Charin, Alice, Nobu, Helen, Chris and Kim.



Participants of the January Teacher Training Workshop held at Tara Institute in Brighton



Two volunteer teachers investigate *Discovering Buddha*

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TEACHER TRAINING SESSIONS

Training For All Teachers Currently Teaching Religion in Primary Schools

Religions for Peace (formerly World Conference of Religions for Peace) is the umbrella organisation linking the various faith communities and the Victorian Department of Education. Currently it represents Baha'i, Buddhist, Eckankar, Greek Orthodox, Muslim and Sikh faiths with religious instructors in Victorian primary schools. Religions for Peace handles all registrations for RI teachers and since October 2008 offers teacher training seminars for all registered RI teachers.

We are going to trial having our own teacher's development day on the same date as the RFP training seminar. Our training will be scheduled in the morning. The next training session is on

- **Saturday 27 June** 10.00am – 4.30pm (tentative times as at the time of printing we await confirmation from the RFP) at the Baha'i Centre, High St., Glen Iris. (bet. Burke Rd & Tooronga Rd. Melways Map 59 F8)

The BCV Education Committee urges all teachers to attend this seminar. It is a good opportunity to meet RI teachers from other faiths as well as meeting up with your colleagues, share common concerns and update your knowledge of schools and Victorian Education Dept. policies in this area.

Further information will be provided closer to the training dates.

Gifts & donations made to the BCV Religious Instruction fund above \$2 are tax deductible. If you or your organization wish to make a donation, please make cheques/ money orders payable to: *BCV RI Fund* and mail to *BCV Buddhist Education in Primary Schools, PO Box 606, North Carlton Vic 3054*

MORE INFORMATION



BUDDHIST COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA, INC

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UPCOMING EVENTS

→ Religions For Peace
Training Session:
Saturday 27 June
10.00am– 4.30pm
Baha'i Centre,
High St, Glen Iris.

Buddhism is now in 9 State Primary Schools

1. Devika Rupasinghe teaches at Mt. View P.S
2. Dee Jaywardene teaches at Willmott Park P.S
3. Judith Makinley & Shamana Kivinen teach at Daylesford P.S
4. Kerrin Hosking teaches (2 classes) at Essex Heights P.S.
5. Shirani Warnakulasuriya teaches (2 classes) at Mt.Waverley P.S
6. Laila Najjar teaches at Footscray P.S.
7. Judith McDonald teaches at Princes Hill P.S.

Changes for Term 2

7. Charin Naksook will take over from Helen Ponder.
8. Eileen Sellers will take over from Shamana at Castlemaine P.S,
9. Alice Brabben will teach at Mentone P.S.

New Schools

10. Claire Campisi will teach at Gardenvale P.S.
11. Eileen Sellers and Shamana Kivinen will teach at Winters Flat P.S.

In Term 3

12. Ven. Pandita will teach at Clayton Nth P.S.

Also I have 4 copies of the text, Jon Landaw's Prince Siddhartha for sale at \$30.00 each. To purchase a copy please email rednoph@hotmail.com or call 0425 794 023

Thank you to all the volunteer teachers; you are the backbone of our program. Best wishes and good preparation to the new teachers.

Please know I am always interested to hear of your classes, and will help you with teaching and learning strategies as best I can. That's what I'm here for.

*Helen Ponder,
Education Officer*

SPECIAL THANKS

To Carey Rohrlach of Caro Way for his expertise and assistance with layout, graphic design and printing of this Newsletter. More information: www.caro.com.au

 caro way

Buddhist Education Program Presentation at the 10th Sakyaditha International Conference on Buddhist Women in July 2008 in Mongolia

Buddhism in Transition, Changes, and Challenges

On 2 July 2008 I presented a paper in Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia on the Buddhist Education Program in Victoria. Interpreters and translators were used from Mongolia and Korean. The feedback was very welcoming as Buddhism is still not taught at schools in Mongolia.

Over six hundred people attended the conference including local women from various Mongolian Buddhist organisations; temples as well as international visitors including ordained nuns from Australia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Tibet, India and United States.

A DVD of the Program was also shown in the evening and it was very popular. A copy was given to a film director who specialises in Buddhist films.

*Laila Najjar,
Committee Member*



Laila at the Conference presentation